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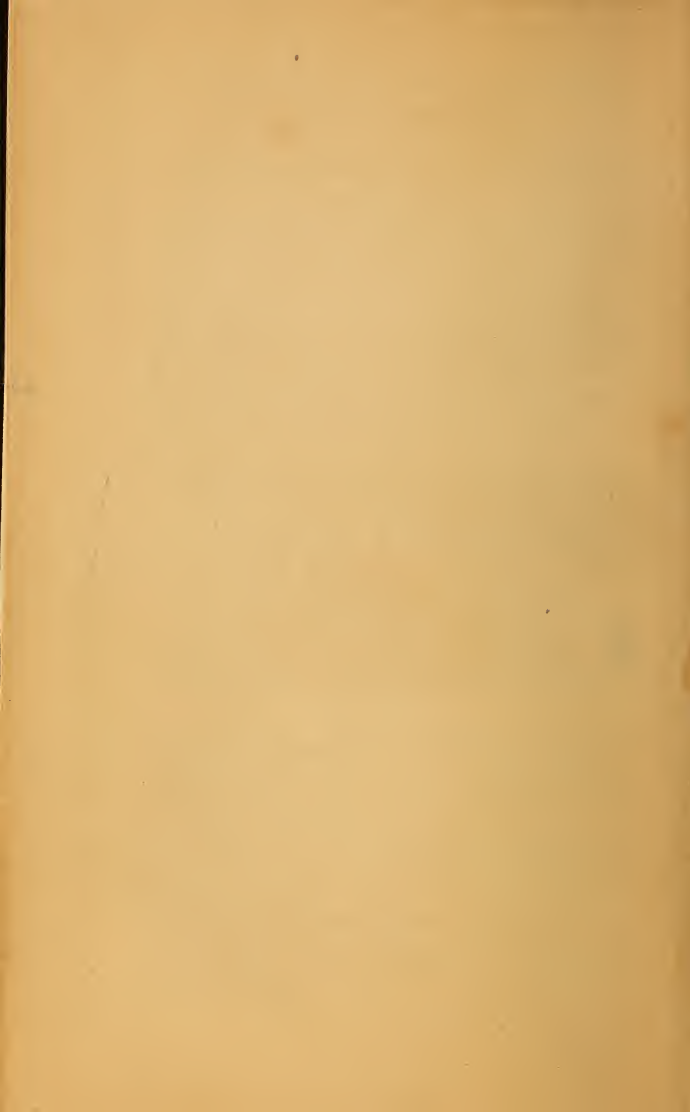
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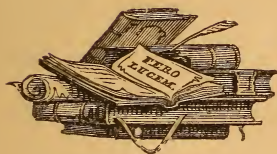
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THE FAMILY CIRCLE.



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CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

THE ORIGIN OF FAMILIES.

	Page
<i>Section I.</i> —Courtship.....	1
II.—Marriage.....	33

CHAPTER II.

FAMILY INTERCOURSE.

<i>Section I.</i> —Husbands and Wives	55
II.—Parents and Children	106
III.—Relatives and Friends.....	135

CHAPTER III.

DUTIES AND EMPLOYMENTS OF FAMILIES.

<i>Section I.</i> —Employers and Servants.....	142
II.—Domestic Employments	159

CHAPTER IV.

FAMILY CUSTOMS.

	Page
<i>Section I.</i> —Courtship and Marriage.....	175
II.—Social Customs.....	223
III.—Death and Burial	229

CHAPTER V.

FAMILY BREACHES.

<i>Section I.</i> —Dissentions	232
II.—Calamities.....	238
III.—Death.....	241

THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

CHAPTER I.

THE ORIGIN OF FAMILIES.

SECTION I.—COURTSHIP.

THE CHOICE OF A WIFE.

IN Lord Kames's work, entitled, "Loose Hints upon Education, chiefly concerning the Culture of the Heart," the following advice is given to those who have the charge of young men:—"Now is the precious time for lecturing your male pupil on the choice of a companion for life: no other branch of education is of deeper concern. Instil into his heart, that happiness in the marriage state depends not on riches nor on beauty, but on good sense and sweetness of temper. Let him also keep in view, that in a married woman the management of domestic affairs, and the education of children, are indispensable duties. He will never tire of such conversation; and if he have any degree of sensibility, it will make such an impression as to guard him against a hasty choice. If not well guarded, he will probably fall a prey to beauty, or other external qualification of little import-

ance in the matrimonial state. He sets his heart on a pretty face, or a sprightly air; he is captivated by a good singer, or a nimble dancer; and his heated imagination bestows on the admired object every perfection. A young man who has profited by the instructions given him, is not so easily captivated. The picture of a good wife is fixed in his mind, and he compares with it every young woman he sees. 'She is pretty, but has she good sense? She has sense, but is she well tempered? She dances elegantly, or sings with expression; but is she not vain of such trifles?' Judgment and sagacity will produce a deliberate choice; love will come with marriage, and in that state it makes an illustrious figure. After proper instruction, let the young man be at full liberty to choose for himself. In looking about where to apply, he cannot be better directed than to a family where the parents and children live in perfect harmony, and are fond of one another. A young woman of such a family seldom fails to make a good wife."

Addison truly remarks, that the pleasantest part of a man's life is, generally, that which passes in courtship, provided his passion be sincere, and the party beloved, kind with discretion. Love, desire, hope, all the pleasing motions of the soul, rise in the pursuit.

Equally sagacious is the statement of Simonides, that a man cannot possess any thing that is better than a good woman, nor any thing that is worse than a bad one.

The following letter is so much in the Poor Rich-

ard style, that it shows itself at once to have been written by the celebrated Dr. Franklin.

“Dear Cousin,—I received your kind letter of November 8th, and rejoice to hear of the continued welfare of you, and your good wife, and four daughters. I hope they will all get good husbands. I dare say they will be educated so as to deserve them. I knew a wise old man who used to advise his young friends to choose wives out of a bunch; for where there were many daughters, he said, they improved each other, and from emulation acquired more accomplishments, knew more, could do more, and were not spoiled by parental fondness as single children often are. Yours have my best wishes, and blessing, if that can be of any value.”

DR. YOUNG.

One day, as Dr. Young was walking in his garden, at Welwyn, in company with two ladies, one of whom he afterwards married, the servant came to say that a gentleman wished to speak with him. “Tell him,” said the Doctor, “I am too happily engaged to change my situation!” The ladies insisted upon it he should go, as his visitor was a man of rank, his patron, and his friend; and, as persuasion had no effect, one took him by the right arm, the other by the left, and led him to the garden gate; when, finding resistance vain, he bowed, laid his hand upon his heart, and in an impressive manner spoke impromptu the following lines:—

Thus Adam look'd, when from the garden driv'n,
And thus disputed orders sent from heav'n:
Like him I go, but yet to go am loath,
Like him I go, for angels drove us both;
Hard was his fate, but mine's still more unkind;—
His Eve went with him, but mine stays behind.

BALDINI.

A female writer relates the following story, from the statement of a friend in Italy :—

I resided, said he, near the rotunda, when Baldini, a young Roman of promising abilities, was engaged in the study of the law. He conceived a passion for a young female, who also lived near the pantheon, but from whom he met with no return. This attachment revived his extraordinary talent for music, which had yielded to graver studies, and every evening the place of the pantheon was enlivened with Baldini's songs, both the words and music of which were his own composition. His enchanting voice, accompanied by his masterly guitar, drew the whole neighbourhood to the windows, and many even from their beds, to listen to his strains. By degrees, these sweet strains became less frequent, and more melancholy ; till at length, one evening, he sung a particularly doleful farewell song, called—The cruel maiden to the grave of her miserable lover,—in tones so moving and pathetic that all the hearers burst into tears. Baldini was seen no more at Rome, and his obdurate charmer soon gave her hand to another.

Some years afterwards, continued my friend, I was present in a church at Rome, during a procession of priests, who passed me singing. A voice, the sweetness of which awakened certain indistinct recollections, attracted my notice. I listened, and looked more attentively—it was Baldini. His pale, emaciated face, illuminated by the soft light of the taper ; he glided past me like a shadow, with downcast eyes ; or rather rose, as if from the grave, before me. I hastened to him, and found him calmly resigned. He returned by degrees into the world, visiting in a few select circles, especially where he met with music.

A SAVOYARD.

Two grenadiers stood sentinel at midnight before the house of Count Rutowsky, at Dresden. The moon shone brightly ; and a man came up to them, who complained that the house where he lodged was shut, and he could not get any one up. After some conversation, he produced a bottle of brandy, gave the sentinels a part ; and at length began to disclose his design, and to negotiate with them about it. He showed them a stone of the pavement, which was indeed in the walk of the sentinels, but more remote from the centre, and covered by the corner of the house. He pretended to want this stone for a chemical experiment, and offered each of the grenadiers a louis-d'or if they would assist him, and dig up the stone with their bayonets. They took him for a fool, accepted the money, and he obtained what he wanted. He had paid the louis-d'or in silver coin : the grenadiers disagreed about the division of it, and quarrelled in the guard-room. The whole story came out, was reported by the officer on duty to the government, and made a great noise ; the grenadiers were immediately arrested, &c. It was believed at that time that the robber of the stone was an Italian in disguise, who had carried off an invaluable jewel. He was looked for in every house ; a description of his person, with a reward for his apprehension, was distributed all over the country ; and I have no doubt but that the old grandmothers in Dresden still relate this story to their grandchildren with expressions of wonder : for it is generally believed in Saxony that the Italian dealers in minerals disguise themselves as sellers of mouse-traps, and the like, merely to carry off undiscovered pieces of gold and silver ore that lie

exposed in the Erzegeburge and the Fichtelberg. Who would believe, says Bretschneider, that two-and-twenty years after I heard this story chance should give me the most complete explanation of it? I was at Vienna in 1774, and agreed with a good friend, who belonged to our embassy, to meet him at a tea-garden. I arrived sooner than my friend, who was detained by the coming of a courier, drank a glass of wine in an arbour, and waited for him till dusk. Meantime a company of gay, cheerful persons seated themselves in the same arbour, and covered the table at which I sat with various dishes, which looked very tempting. I was invited to partake with them, and found that I was in the company of officers of the household of great families in Vienna, as Lobkowitz, Swarzenburg, &c. Among them was an old man, who guessed my country by my language, and told me that in his youth he had been at Dresden, as valet-de-chambre to a gentleman. Among many other anecdotes, he told me that his master had fallen in love with a young countess, who was most strictly watched by a cross old father. The lovers were perfectly agreed, but it was almost impossible for them to have a *tête-à-tête*. A window, belonging to the countess, had indeed been quite conveniently arranged by the chambermaid to get in by, but the sentinels of Count Rutowsky, close by, who had this window before them, had rendered this way impassable. At length his master, a cunning Savoyard, had thought of a good expedient. He, the valet-de-chambre, was ordered to disguise himself, to steal by night to the sentinels, and, by the trick with the stone, to draw them quite aside, while his master slipped through the window so quickly that the grenadiers, whose attention was engrossed by the

stone, did not perceive it. His master remained concealed in the house two days, and was let out on the third, disguised in a female dress, by the lady's-maid.

REV. W. TENNENT.

The late Rev. W. Tennent, of America, was settled as a minister several years before he married. Totally ignorant of the way in which he should manage his temporal concerns, he was soon embarrassed with debt. In this emergency a friend from New York told him, the only remedy against a recurrence of the evil was to get a wife. "I do not know how to go about it," was the answer. "Then I will undertake the business," said his friend; "I have a sister-in-law in the city, a prudent and pious widow." The next evening found Mr. T. in New York, and the following day he was introduced to Mrs. Noble. Pleased with her appearance, he abruptly told her that he supposed she knew his errand, that neither his time nor inclination would allow him to use much ceremony, and that, if she pleased, he would return from his charge on the following Monday, and be married. With some hesitation the lady consented, and she proved a most excellent wife.

QUINTIN MESINS.

Quintin Mesins was a farrier at Antwerp. When in his twentieth year he became enamoured of a young woman of his own condition in life, who was at the same time sought in marriage by a painter of some repute. The damsel confessed to Quintin that she had a greater inclination to him than the painter,

but that she had an unconquerable aversion to his trade of a farrier. Quintin, who from his childhood had evinced a strong taste for designing, instantly resolved to be on equal terms with his rival, and to abandon the hammer for the brush. He applied to his new art with so much assiduity, that in a short time, he produced pictures which gave a promise of the highest excellence. He gained for his reward the fair hand for which he sighed ; and continuing after his marriage to exercise the art in which he had made so noble an essay, he rose to a high rank in his profession.

MR. COBBETT.

The late Mr. Cobbett wrote a little volume, entitled " Advice to Young Men and Women," in which there is a great deal of good sense, and sound reasoning. In that part of it which gives directions to a lover, he introduces the history of his courtship, which is given in his own words.

When I first saw my wife she was thirteen years old, and I was within about a month of twenty-one. She was the daughter of a sergeant of artillery, and I was the sergeant-major of a regiment of foot, both stationed in forts near the city of St. John, in the province of New Brunswick. I sat in the same room with her for about an hour, in company with others, and I made up my mind that she was the very girl for me. That I thought her beautiful is certain, for that I had always said should be an indispensable qualification ; but I saw in her what I deemed marks of that sobriety of conduct of which I have said so much, and which has been by far the greatest blessings of my life. It was now dead of winter, and, of

course, the snow several feet deep on the ground, and the weather piercing cold. It was my habit, when I had done my morning's writing, to go out at break of day to take a walk on a hill, at the foot of which our barracks lay. In about three mornings after I had first seen her, I had, by an invitation to breakfast with me, got up two young men to join me in my walk ; and our road lay by the house of her father and mother. It was hardly light, but she was out on the snow, scrubbing out a washing-tub ; " That's the girl for me," said I, when we had got out of her hearing. One of these young men came to England soon afterwards ; and he, who keeps an inn in Yorkshire, came over to Preston, at the time of the election, to verify whether I were the same man. When he found that I was, he appeared surprised ; but what was his surprise when I told him that those tall young men, whom he saw around me, were the sons of that pretty little girl that he and I saw scrubbing out the washing-tub on the snow, in New Brunswick, at day-break in the morning !

From the day that I first spoke to her I never had a thought of her ever becoming the wife of any other man, more than I had a thought of her being transformed into a chest of drawers ; and I formed my resolution at once, to marry her as soon as we could get permission, and to get out of the army as soon as I could. So that this matter was at once settled firmly. At the end of about six months my regiment, and I along with it, were removed to Frederickton, a distance of a hundred miles, up the river of St. John ; and, which was worse, the artillery were expected to go off to England a year or two before our regiment ! The artillery went, and she along with them ; and now it was that I acted a part be-

coming a real and sensible lover. I was aware that when she got to that gay place, Woolwich, the house of her father and mother, necessarily visited by numerous persons not the most select, might become unpleasant to her, and I also did not like besides that she should continue to work hard. I had saved a hundred and fifty guineas, the earnings of my early hours in writing for the paymaster, the quarter-master, and others, in addition to the savings of my own pay. I sent her all my money before she sailed ; and wrote to her to beg of her, if she found her home uncomfortable, to hire a lodging with respectable people ; and, at any rate, not to spare the money by any means, but to buy herself good clothes, and to live without hard work, until I arrived in England ; and I, in order to induce her to lay out the money, told her that I should get plenty more before I came home.

We were kept abroad two years longer than our time, Mr. Pitt having knocked up a dust with Spain about Nootka Sound. At the end of four years, however, home I came ; and landed at Portsmouth, and got my discharge from the army by the great kindness of poor Lord Edward Fitzgerald, who was then the major of my regiment. I found my little girl a servant of all work, (and hard work it was,) at five pounds a year, in the house of a Captain Brisac ; and, without hardly saying a word about the matter, she put into my hands the whole of my hundred and fifty guineas unbroken !

A JOCOSE COUPLE.

An accepted suitor one day walking with the object of his affections hanging upon his arm, and

describing the ardency of his affection, said, "How transported I am to have you hanging on my arm!" "Upon my word," said the lady, "you make us out to be a very respectable couple, when one is *transported*, and the other *hanging*!"

CATHERINE II.

Ladies are sometimes very resolute in their choice. Catherine II., Empress of Poland, resolved to marry Poniatoffsky; and a courtier, who was fully aware of his unpopularity, ventured to hint the fact to her majesty. "No man," said he, "is less fit to fill the throne of Poland; his grandfather having been intendant of a little estate belonging to Lubominsky." "Though he had been intendant himself," replied Catherine, haughtily, "I *will* have him to be king, and king he *shall* be."

A LAWYER.

A young lawyer being very assiduous in his attentions to a lady, a wit observed that he never heard of people making love by *attorney*. "Very true," replied the other, "but you should remember that all Cupid's votaries are *solicitors*."

A PERSIAN.

The determination of men to acquire wives who should confer honour upon them, has often been strikingly illustrated, but never more forcibly than in an instance designed, according to tradition, to be commemorated by a pillar in the neighbourhood of Ispahan. A king of Persia promised his daughter

in marriage to any one who should run before his horse all the way from Shiraz to Ispahan. One of his shatirs had so nearly accomplished the task as to gain the height on which the tower stands, when the monarch, alarmed lest he should be forced to fulfil the agreement, dropped his whip. The shatir, aware that, owing to the ligatures these people tied round their bodies to enable them to perform such feats, it would be death to stoop, contrived to pick it up with his foot. The trick having thus failed, the royal rider dropped his ring: the shatir then saw that his fate was decided, and exclaiming, "O king, you have broken your word, but I am true to the last!" he stooped, picked up the ring, and expired.

RAYBURN.

One day a young lady presented herself at Rayburn's studio, and desired to sit for her portrait: he instantly remembered having seen her in some of his excursions, when, with his sketch-book in his hand, he was noting down fine sketches of scenery; and as the appearance of any thing living and lovely gives an additional charm to a landscape, the painter, like Gainsborough in similar circumstances, had admitted her readily into his drawing. This circumstance, it is said, had had its influence; on further acquaintance, he found that, besides personal charms, she had sensibility and wit: his respect for her did not affect his skill of hand, but rather inspired him, and he succeeded in making a fine portrait. The lady, Ann Edgar, the daughter of Peter Edgar, Esq., of Bridgelands, was much pleased with the skill and manners of the artist; and within a month or little more after the adventures of the studio, she gave

him her hand in marriage ; bestowing at once a most affectionate wife, and a handsome fortune. This was in the twenty-second year of his age.

A YOUNG NOBLEMAN.

Postlethwayte, in the introduction to his " Dictionary of Trade and Commerce," relates the following very curious anecdote, which he says was told by George the First of Great Britain, as having come under his own knowledge :—

About the year 1615, there was a nobleman in Germany, whose daughter was courted by a young lord. When he had made such progress in this affair as is usual, by the interposition of friends, the old lord had a conference with him, asking him how he intended, if he married his daughter, to maintain her. He replied, " Equal to her quality." To which the father replied, that was no answer to his question ; he desired to know what he had to maintain her with. To which the young lord answered, he hoped that was no question ; for his inheritance was as public as his name. The old lord owned his possessions to be great ; but still asked if he had nothing more secure than land, wherewith to maintain his daughter. The question was strange, but ended in this, that the father of the young lady stated his positive resolution never to marry his daughter, though his heiress, and would have two great estates, but to a man that had a manual trade, by which he might subsist if driven from his country. The young lord was master of none at present ; but, rather than lose his lady, he requested only a year's time, in which he promised to acquire one : in order to which he got a basket-maker, the most ingenious he

could meet with, and in six months became master of his trade of basket-making, with far greater skill than even his teacher himself ; and as a proof of his ingenuity and extraordinary proficiency in so short a time, he brought to his young lady a piece of workmanship of his own performance, being a white twig basket, which for many years after became a general fashion among the ladies by the name of dressing-baskets, which were brought to England from Germany and Holland.

To complete the singularity of this relation, it happened, some years after this nobleman's marriage, that he and his father-in-law, sharing in the misfortunes of the wars of the Palatinate, were driven destitute from their estates ; and in Holland, for some years, did this young lord maintain both his father-in-law and his own family, by making baskets of white twigs, to such an unparalleled excellency as none could attain ; and it is from this young German lord the Hollanders derive those curiosities, which are still made in the United Provinces, of twig-work.

A YOUNG FRENCHMAN.

Charlotte Cordey was an heroine of the French revolution. As she passed through the streets to suffer death on the scaffold, for the assassination of Marat ; a young Frenchman, struck with her beauty, and the dignity of her aspect, conceived for her an enthusiastic passion ; and, running wildly through the city, proclaimed his determination of sharing the fate of the object of his admiration, and mingling his blood with hers. He was taken at his word by the satellites of the tyrant demagogues, and hurried to the guillotine.

DR. JOHNSON.

When Dr. Johnson offered his hand to Mrs. Porter, he told her he was without money, and had an uncle hung : she replied, that she had no more money than he had ; and though she could not boast of ever having a relation hung, she had fifty who deserved hanging.

REV. W. GURNALL.

It is related that the celebrated Gurnall, author of "The Christian in Complete Armour," after being for many years a bachelor, was prevailed on to take to himself a wife, and had two sisters recommended to him, either of whom, it was thought, would make him happy. He paid them a visit, when the elder one refused, and the other accepted his offer. He went to the surrogate to obtain a license for the celebration of his marriage, during which time, the younger sister told the elder one the fact of her having been engaged to him. The good man first discovered before the surrogate that he was ignorant of the Christian name of his intended bride, and that gentleman kindly left the blank for him to fill up, when he had obtained the information. On his return to the house where they lived, he found the elder sister waiting for him at the door : she told him she had changed her mind, and meant to have him. Her name was introduced into the license, and they were married almost before her sister discovered the affecting fact that she had lost her intended husband.

LOUISE BELLETZ.

One day, said Massena, being at Buezenghen, I perceived a young soldier belonging to the light artillery, whose horse had just been wounded by a lance. The young man, who appeared quite a child, defended himself desperately, as several bodies of the enemy lying around him could testify. I immediately despatched an officer with some men to his assistance, but they arrived too late. Although this action had taken place on the borders of the wood, and in front of the bridge, this artilleryman had alone withstood the attack of the small troop of Cossacks and Bavarians; whom the officer and men I had despatched put to flight. His body was covered with wounds, inflicted by shots, lances, and swords: there were at least thirty. "And do you know, Madam, what this young man was?" said Massena, turning to the Duchess of Abrantes: "A woman! yes, a woman, and a handsome woman too; although she was so covered with blood that it was difficult to judge of her beauty. She had followed her lover to the army. The latter was a captain of artillery: she never left him, and, when he was killed, defended, like a lioness, the remains of him she loved. She was a native of Paris; her name was Louise Belletz, and she was the daughter of a fringe-maker in the *Rue du Petit Lion*."

A SCOTCH GIRL.

A respectable farmer in the parish of Cumnock, being a widower, paid his addresses to a young lady, the daughter of a neighbouring farmer in the parish of Auchimleck. The farmer was no great orator, but

he was young, had a good person, and was in affluent circumstances : he addressed his fair one rather bluntly, and proposed marriage without much ceremony. The lady replied, in the same frank and open way, " Deed, Jamie, I'll tak' ye ; but ye maun gi'e me my dues o' courtin' for a' that." The wedding took place accordingly.

AN AMERICAN.

A young man, residing near Bangor, in Maine, was returning from a visit to his lady love : his path lay through woodland, from which, except a few straggling pines, the trees had been cut down, and were lying on the ground. He skipped over the logs and stumps with light foot and lighter heart ; his fair mistress had received him kindly. Suddenly, on leaping over a fallen tree, he found himself within a few feet of a ravenous bear. He sprang to the nearest pine, and climbed up, the bear clambering after him. Making good use of his feet, he dashed his antagonist to the ground. The bear returned, and was again repulsed, carrying with him one of our hero's boots. Bruin ascended a third time, with more caution. The young man, hoping to escape, ascended the tree about fifty feet, and, as the bear approached him, attempted to shake him off, but in vain, as his foot was held by the paws of the infuriated animal, who had lost his hold of the tree, and hung suspended by the poor lover's leg. The young man's strength becoming exhausted, he let go his hold on the tree, and down they went with a tremendous concussion to the ground. Our hero struck on the bear, and rebounded some feet distant. Scarcely knowing whether he was dead or

alive, he raised himself on his arm, and discovered Bruin gazing wildly at him, evidently dumb-founded by such lofty tumbling.

The affrighted pair sat eyeing each other for some time ; and when the bear, who was the more severely bruised of the two, showed no signs of fight, the young man rose and fled, leaving his hat and the boot behind him ; his friend of the shaggy coat casting at him an expressive look, accompanied by a growl, and a shake of the head, which convinced our hero that, had it been possible, it would have been a shake of the paw. The young lover soon recovered from his bruises, and the fair damsel, who had been the indirect cause of the adventure which had placed his life in such immediate peril, poured balsam on his wounds, and made his heart whole, by naming "an early day."

A YOUNG LADY.

Sir William Temple relates the following anecdote of Dr. Rujeau, the most celebrated man of the medical profession in his time. A certain great lady came to him in much distress about her daughter, and the physician began the investigation of the case by asking, "Why, what ails her?" "Alas! Doctor," replied the mother, "I cannot tell; but she has lost her humour, her looks, her stomach; her strength consumes every day, so as we fear she cannot live." "Why do you not marry her?" "Alas! Doctor, that we would fain do, and have offered her as good a match as ever she could expect." "Is there no other that you think she would be content to marry?" "Ah, Doctor, that is it that troubles us; for there is a young gentleman we doubt she loves,

that her father and I can never consent to." "Why, look you, Madam," replied the Doctor gravely, being among all his books in his closet, "then the case is this : your daughter would marry one man, and you would have her marry another. In all my books I find no remedy for such a disease as this."

A GENTLEMAN.

Miss M——, a young heiress of considerable personal attractions, chanced to be seated, at a dinner party, next to a gentleman remarkable in the fashionable circles for the brilliancy of his wit, and who had long made one in the train of her admirers. The conversation turning on the uncertainty of life, "I mean to *insure* mine," said the young lady archly, "in the *Hope*." "In the hope of *what*?" said her admirer ; "a *single* life is hardly worth insuring ; I propose we should insure our lives together ; and, if you have no objections, I should prefer *the Alliance*."

A LADY.

May is considered by the superstitious as an unlucky month to marry in, or, as the Scotch say, "uncannie." A lady, who was courted in April, being solicited by her lover to name the day in the following month for the wedding, replied, *May* was an unfortunate month ; and, being asked to name it in June, asked, if *April* would not suit just as well !

AFRICAN LOVERS.

Among the unfortunate victims of the frightful traffic in slaves, brought to Tripoli, in 1788, were a

beautiful black female, about sixteen years of age, and a young man of good appearance. They had been purchased by a Moorish family of distinction. They were obliged to be watched night and day, and all instruments kept out of their reach, as they were continually endeavouring to destroy themselves, and sometimes each other. - Their story will prove that friendship and fidelity are not strangers to the negro race. This female, who had been the admiration of her own country, had bestowed her heart on the man who was then with her. Their nuptials were going to be celebrated, when her friends one morning missing her, traced her steps to the corner of an adjacent wood, immediately apprehending that she had been pursued, and that she had flown to the thicket for shelter, which is the common and best resource of escape from those who scour the country for slaves.

The parents went directly to her lover, and told him of their distress. He, without losing time to search for her in the thicket, hastened to the sea side, where his foreboding heart told him he should find her in some vessel anchored there, for carrying off slaves. He was just easy enough in his circumstances not to be afraid of being bought or stolen himself, as it is in general only the unprotected that are carried off by these hunters of the human race. His conjectures were just—he saw his betrothed wife in the hands of those who had stolen her. He knelt to the robbers who had now the disposal of her, to know the price they demanded for her. A hundred mahboobs (nearly a hundred pounds) was fixed ; but, alas ! all that he was worth did not make him rich enough for the purchase. He did not hesitate a moment to sell his little flock of sheep, and the small

piece of ground he possessed ; and, lastly, he disposed of himself to those who had taken his companion. Happy that they would do him this last favour, he cheerfully accompanied her, and threw himself into slavery for her sake. This faithful pair, on their arrival at Tripoli, were sold to a merchant, who determined on sending off the female with the rest of the slaves, to be sold again, she having, from her beauty, cost too much money to be kept as a servant. The merchant intended to keep the man as a domestic in his own family.

The distressed pair, on hearing they were to be separated, became frantic. They threw themselves on the ground before some of the ladies of the family, whom they saw passing by ; and finding that one of them was the daughter of their master, they clung around her, and implored her assistance ; nor could their grief be moderated, until the humane lady assured them that she would intercede with her father not to part them.

The black fell at the merchant's feet, and entreated him not to separate them, declaring that if he did, he would lose all the money he had paid for them both ; for that although knives and poison were kept out of their way, no one could force them to eat ; and that no human means could make them break the oath they had already taken in the presence of the god they worshipped, never to live asunder.

Tears and entreaties prevailed so far with the merchant, as to suffer them to remain together, and they were sold to the owner of a merchant vessel, who took them, with several others, to Constantinople.

WIDOW OF BURNS.

An English gentleman visiting the widow of Robert Burns, the Scottish poet, at Dumfries, was exceedingly anxious to obtain some *relic* of the bard, as he called it; that is, some scrap of his handwriting, or any other little object which could be considered a memorial of the deceased. Mrs. Burns replied to all his entreaties, that she had already given away every thing of that kind that was remarkable, or which she could think of parting with; that, indeed, she had no relic to give him. Still the visitant insisted, and still Mrs. Burns declared her inability to satisfy him; at length, pushed by his good-humoured entreaties to very extremity, she as good-humouredly said, "Well, Sir, unless you take myself, I really can think of no other *relic* (relict) of him that it is in my power to give, or yours to receive." Of course, this closed the argument.

HERO OF THE BASTILE.

In the year 1785, a person of rank and fashion in Paris became enamoured of a beautiful young girl, the daughter of a respectable tradesman; who, refusing to encourage the nobleman's passion, was soon after thrown into the Bastile. The lover of the girl, the son of a wealthy citizen, and who was to have been married to her in a few days, dreading the like fate, made his escape to Constantinople, to serve as a volunteer under the Grand Seignior, leaving his intended bride secreted with a female friend. On the revolution breaking out, the young man returned to Paris, and, equally stimulated by love and liberty, was the very grenadier who first mounted the breach

made in the Bastile, from the dungeons of which he had the happiness of rescuing the father of his future bride.

EGIRVARD.

A very curious story is told by several ancient writers respecting Egirvard, a secretary to Charlemagne, and a daughter of that emperor. The secretary fell in love with the princess, who at length allowed him to visit her. One winter's night he staid with her very late, and in the mean time a deep snow had fallen. If he left, his footmarks would be observed, and yet to stay would expose him to danger. At length the princess resolved to carry him on her back to a neighbouring house, which she did. It happened, however, that from the window of his bed-room the emperor saw the whole affair. In an assembly of his lords, on the following day, when Egirvard and his daughter were present, he asked what ought to be done to the man who compelled a king's daughter to carry him on her shoulders, through frost and snow, in the middle of a winter's night? They answered that he was worthy of death. The lovers were alarmed, but the Emperor, addressing Egirvard, said, "Hadst thou loved my daughter, thou shouldst have come to me; thou art worthy of death, but I give thee *two* lives. Take thy fair Porter in marriage; fear God, and love one another."

AN IRISH GIRL.

A young man, who was paying his addresses to an Irish girl, had gained so far on her affections that she had consented to attend him to the temple of Hymen,

when some economical fears arose in his breast, which cooled the flame Cupid had kindled; he therefore waited on his destined bride, talked of hard times, household expenses, &c., till, her patience being exhausted, she very politely turned him out of the house. Her mistress, hearing the noise, called to know what it was. "Nothing, Madam," replied she, "but kicking the cares of the world out of doors."

AUTHOR OF "BARON MUNCHAUSEN."

During the reign of terror there was, among the British subjects imprisoned in Paris, a man of a peculiar cast of character, who, under the most uncouth and neglected exterior, concealed a kind heart. His person was at that time meagre and spare, and, overshadowed as it generally was by a hat of an immense military cock, formed no unapt representation of Shakspeare's Pistol. The gentleman we allude to was Mr. —, better known among his friends by the appellation of *the Baron*, from his having given to the world the wonderful exploits and adventures of Baron Munchausen. After many vicissitudes of fortune in England, Mr. M. proceeded to France, in order to offer his services to the republican government, and soon after was presented with a lieutenancy in the regiment commanded by another Englishman of unfortunate memory, Colonel Oswald. Although attached, in the first instance, to the cause of the revolution, Mr. M. by no means approved of its latter stages; nor would his principles permit him to continue in the service after the death of the king, and the declaration of war against his own country. His resignation provoked the jealousy of

the ruling party ; he was arrested and thrown into prison. While confined here, he became an object of very tender solicitude to a young French woman, who, though she moved only in the humble capacity of a servant, had conceived a strong attachment to the Baron's person. Whatever money she was able to earn by her labour, she remitted to him ; and as often as her weekly holiday permitted, she was a regular visitor at his prison. The privilege of receiving the visits of their friends was, after some time, however, denied to the prisoners, and the Baron was obliged to forego the company of his beloved Marie, consoling himself with the idea, that, though out of sight, she might still be constant to him : nor did he do Marie any more than justice ; the faithful girl continued to send him daily supplies of every thing, even to a little luxury, which it was in her power to procure ; and though no man in the prison was poorer than Mr. M., few of them could boast of more personal comforts. The sequel of this anecdote it gives us great pleasure to relate : he found means of getting her over to England, and the humble Marie became Mrs. M.

SENZANO.

Senzano, during many years of peculiar trials and crosses, was wont to number them by dropping black stones into an urn. He kept, however, one white stone uppermost, because, said he, " There will come one white day, my wedding day, that will make amends for all my black days."

MISS NOYES.

A gentleman feeling a strong partiality for a young lady whose name was *Noyes*, was desirous, without the ceremony of a formal courtship, to ascertain her sentiments. For this purpose he said to her one day, with that kind of air and manner which means either jest or earnest, as you choose to take it, "If I were to ask you whether you are under matrimonial engagements to any one, what part of your name (No—yes) might I take for an answer?" "The first," said she in the same tone. "And were I to ask if you were inclined to form such an engagement, should a person offer who loved you, and was not indifferent to yourself, what part of your name might he then take as an answer?" "The last." "And if I tell you that I love you, and ask you to form such an engagement with *me*, then what part of your name may I take?" "Oh, then," replied the blushing girl, "take the *whole name*, as, in such a case, I would cheerfully resign it for yours." It is almost needless to add that they were soon afterwards married.

ABERNETHY.

The report of the courtship and marriage of the late celebrated Abernethy, the distinguished surgeon, was characteristic of his eccentricities. It is said, that, while attending a lady for several weeks, he observed those admirable qualifications in her daughter which he truly esteemed to be calculated to render the married state happy. Accordingly, one Saturday, when taking leave of his patient, he addressed her

to the following purport :—" You are now so well that I need not see you after Monday next, when I shall come to pay you my farewell visit. But, in the mean time, I wish you and your daughter seriously to consider the proposal I am now about to make. It is abrupt and unceremonious, I am aware, but the excessive occupation of my time, by my professional duties, affords me no leisure to accomplish what I desire by the more ordinary course of attention and solicitation. My annual receipts amount to £——, and I can settle £—— on my wife : my character is generally known to the public, so that you may readily ascertain what it is : I have seen in your daughter a tender and affectionate child, an assiduous and careful nurse, and a gentle and lady-like member of a family : such a person must be all that a husband could covet, and I offer my hand and fortune for her acceptance. On Monday, when I call, I shall expect your determination ; for I really have not time for the routine of courtship." In this humour the lady was wooed and won ; and we believe we may add, the union was felicitous in every respect.

A MAN IN LANCASHIRE.

The governor of a workhouse, in a town not a dozen miles out of the road between Manchester and Liverpool, had the misfortune to lose his spouse by death. As he had no daughter old enough to take the duties his wife had discharged in the establishment, it was intimated to him by his principals that they should be under the necessity of introducing a matron. Anxious to avert this contin-

gency, the governor determined to get married, and forthwith despatched an epistle to one of the overseers of a very populous town in the neighbourhood, intimating his wish "to change his condition," and requesting his correspondent to look out for a lady, from forty to fifty years of age, who might suit his purpose. The letter, of course, created a good deal of mirth amongst the churchwardens and sidesmen of the very populous town alluded to; and one of the former handing it to an overseer of the poor, desired him to select a wife for the applicant. The overseer happened to call in at the shop of an acquaintance, mentioned the commission with which he was intrusted, when the shopkeeper straightway exclaimed, "Why, my aunt —— will be just the thing for him." The lady's disposition was sounded, and she was found not indisposed for the negotiation; accordingly, the tender swain was informed, by a letter written on the Saturday evening, that his agent had procured a help-meet for him. This gentleman, on coming to his office on the Monday morning, was surprised to find his correspondent already waiting his arrival, and impatient to be introduced without delay to his future wife. Suffice it to observe, that the introduction took place, the preliminaries were speedily arranged, and the parties, in the course of a fortnight, united in the holy bonds of matrimony.

KING OF SPAIN.

The Duke de Grammont was distinguished by the brevity, energy, and point of his speeches. He was commissioned to ask of the king of Spain the In-

fanta, his daughter, in marriage for the king of France. "Sire," said he to the king of Spain, "my master gives you peace;" and then turning to the Infanta, he continued, "and to you, Madam, he gives his heart and his crown."

COLONEL BRETT.

Colonel Brett was a particularly handsome man. The Countess of Rivers, looking out of her window on a great disturbance in the street, saw the Colonel assaulted by some bailiffs, who were going to arrest him. She paid his debt, released him from their pursuit, and soon after married him. When she died, she left him more than he expected; with which he bought an estate in the country, built a very handsome house upon it, and furnished it in the highest taste; went down to see the finishing of it; returned to London in hot weather, and in too much hurry; got a fever by it, and died.

EDWARD OSBORNE.

In the year 1539, when London bridge was covered with houses, overhanging the pent-up turbulent stream, as if the ordinary dangers of life were not sufficient, that men should, out of their ingenuity, invent new ones, desert *terra firma*, and, like so many beavers, perch their dwellings on a crazy bridge,—Sir William Hewitt, citizen of London, and cloth-worker, inhabited one of those houses. His only child, a pretty little girl, was playing with a servant at a window over the water, and fell into the rapids, through which, even now-a-days, it is counted a feat to shoot. Many beheld the fearful sight, in

the helplessness of terror, without dreaming of venturing into the stream. But there was one, to whom the life of the perishing child was dearer than his own, and that was the apprentice of Sir William Hewitt. He leaped into the water after his youthful mistress, and by the aid of a bold heart, and a strong arm, bore her in safety to the shore : and he had his reward. Years rolled on, and each succeeding one brought wealth to the father, and grace and loveliness to the noble-minded daughter. Such was the fame of her beauty, that even in that aristocratical age, the gallant and far descended chivalry of the land, were rival suitors for the hand of the merchant-queen of hearts. But fairer, in her eyes, was the 'prentice-cap of the daring youth, who had snatched her from the whirling waters, than the coronet of the peer ; and with the single-minded disinterestedness of a genuine woman, she gave to her untitled preserver, Edward Osborne, the hand and heart which the Earl of Shrewsbury, the heir of the house of Talbot, had sighed for in vain. Well did her lover vindicate her choice ! Edward Osborne was a nobleman born of God's creation, not man's. He rose by successful industry to the highest honours of that city, whose merchants are the pay-masters of the rulers of the earth. And from the city beauty,—to whom faith and love were dearer than titles and wealth, and the merchant-'prentice, who periled his life as frankly in the cause of the helpless, and for the sake of humanity, as ever did high born youth for fame and glory, and golden spurs,—descended by a lineage more noble, than if they had sprung from the most heroic stock of crowned robbers that ever troubled the world with their achievements, the successive Dukes of Leeds.

WYCHERLEY.

Spence, in his anecdotes, tells us of a marriage made in a bookseller's shop at Bath, or Tunbridge, where Wycherley, the dramatic writer, happened to be, when Lady Drogheda came in, and inquired for *The Plain Dealer*. A friend of Wycherley, the author of that play, who stood by him, pushed him towards the Dowager, and said, "There's the Plain Dealer, Madam, if you want him!" Wycherley made his excuses, but Lady Drogheda said that she loved Plain Dealing best. He afterwards visited, and shortly married the Countess.

HON. MISS GOWRIE.

The top of one of the towers of Ruthven House, Scotland, once the seat of the unfortunate Gowries, is called the Maiden's Leap, receiving its name on the following occasion:—A daughter of the first Earl of Gowrie was addressed by a young gentleman, of inferior rank, in the neighbourhood, a frequent visitor of the family, who never would give the least countenance to his passion. His lodging was in the tower, separate from his mistress; the lady, before the doors were shut, conveyed herself into her lover's apartment; but some prying duenna acquainted the Countess with it, who, cutting off all, as she thought, possibility of retreat, hastened to surprise them. The young lady's ears were quick, she heard the footsteps of the old Countess, ran to the top of the leads, and took the desperate leap of nine feet four inches over a chasm of sixty feet; and, luckily falling on the battlements of the other tower, crept into her own bed, where her astonished mother found her, and of

course apologized for the unjust suspicion. The fair daughter did not choose to repeat the leap : but the next night eloped, and married.

MISS FARQUHAR.

Sir Walter Farquhar calling one day on Mr. Pitt, the Premier, observed him to be unusually ruffled, and inquired what was the matter. "Why, to tell you the truth," replied Sir Walter, "I am extremely angry with my daughter. She has permitted herself to form an attachment to a young gentleman, by no means qualified in point of rank or fortune to be my son-in-law." "Now let me say one word in the young lady's behalf," returned the minister: "Is the young man you mention, of a respectable family?" "He is." "Is he respectable in himself?" "He is." "Has he the manners and education of a gentleman?" "He has." "Has he an estimable character?" "He has." "Why, then, my dear Sir Walter, hesitate no longer. You and I are well acquainted with the delusions of life. Let your daughter follow her own inclinations, since they appear to be virtuous. You have had more opportunities than I have, of knowing the value of affection, and ought to respect it. Let the union take place, and I will not be unmindful that I had the pleasure of recommending it." The physician consented, the lovers were united, and the patronage of the minister soon gave old Sir Walter no cause to regret the event.

SECTION II.—MARRIAGE.

There is no combination of letters in the English language which excites more pleasing and interesting associations in the mind of man, than the word *wife*. There is a magic in this little word. It presents to the mind's eye a cheerful companion, a disinterested adviser, a nurse in sickness, a comforter in misfortune, and a faithful and ever affectionate friend. It conjures up the image of a lovely, confiding woman, who cheerfully undertakes to contribute to your happiness, to partake with you the cup, whether of weal or woe, which destiny may offer. The word *wife* is synonymous with the greatest earthly blessing; and we pity the unfortunate wight, who is condemned to trudge along through life's dull pilgrimage without one.

THE ANCIENTS.

Celibacy was at all times, among the ancients, considered less respectable than marriage; and among many nations it was attended with very great inconveniences.

The Romans would not administer an oath to any but married persons; nor would they receive others as witnesses.

Cesar only bestowed his favours on the fathers of families.

Augustus inflicted punishments on those that were unmarried.

Lycurgus humbled, and otherwise punished single men.

DUKE OF SUFFOLK.

Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, married Mary, Queen of France, widow of Louis the Twelfth. The following was his motto at a tournament, upon his marriage with the queen, (the trappings of his horse being half cloth of gold ; and the other half frieze :)

Cloth of gold ! do not despise,
Though thou art match'd with cloth of frieze.
Cloth of frieze ! be not too bold,
Though thou art match'd with cloth of gold.

LADY CLARENDON.

During the troubles in the reign of King Charles I., a country girl came up to London in search of a place as a servant maid ; but not succeeding, she applied herself to carrying out beer from a brew-house, and was one of those then called tub-women. The brewer observing a well-looking girl in this low occupation, took her into his family as a servant ; and after a while, as she behaved herself with much prudence and propriety, he married her ; but he died when she was yet a young woman, and left her a large fortune. The business of the brewery was dropped, and the young woman was recommended to Mr. Hyde as a gentleman of skill in the law, to settle her affairs. Hyde (who was afterwards the great Earl of Clarendon), finding the widow's fortune very considerable, married her. Of this marriage there was no other issue than a daughter, who was afterwards the wife of James II. and mother of Mary and Anne, queens of England.

AN IRISHMAN.

A gay Irishman arrived at the Hotel de Suede, in the Rue de Richelieu, Paris, and having a quantity of dirty linen, sent for a washerwoman, and told her to pick it up from the floor. Shortly afterwards the washerwoman returned, and to the traveller's great surprise put into his hands a number of bank notes which had been negligently left among the linen. The Irishman was very grateful, and strongly urged the young woman to accept a reward for her honesty ; but she resolutely refused to do so, and seemed quite grieved at the offer. Some days afterwards a marriage was celebrated at the church of St. Thomas d'Aquin, which attracted a vast number of persons. It was easy to perceive from the dress and manner of the bridegroom, that he was a foreigner ; and from the timid and embarrassed deportment of the bride, that she did not belong to the same class as her intended, and that it was decidedly a marriage of inclination. The above anecdote got into circulation among the crowd—in a word, the bride was no other than the young washerwoman, whom the Irishman had thought worthy of sharing his fortune and destiny.

SANDY WOOD

The eccentric and well-remembered Sandy Wood, an eminent surgeon in Edinburgh, at the outset of his professional career, married Miss Veronica Chalmers, second daughter of George Chalmers, writer for the Signet, a highly respectable man, and to whose honesty and integrity his fellow-citizens bore the most ample testimony, by giving him the popular

title of "Honest George Chalmers." This marriage turned out very fortunate for both parties, though before it took place there was a danger of it being impeded by the poverty of the intended husband. It is related of Mr. Wood, on obtaining the consent of the lady, proposed himself to Mr. Chalmers as his son-in-law, when that gentleman addressed him thus: "Sandy, I have not the smallest objection to you; but I myself am not rich, and should, therefore, like to know how you are to support a wife and family." Mr. Wood, putting his hand in his pocket, and taking out his lancet-case with a scarlet garter rolled round it, presenting it to him, said, "I have nothing but this, Sir, and a determination to use my best endeavours to succeed in my profession." Mr. Chalmers was so struck with this straight-forward and honest reply, that he immediately exclaimed, "Veronica is yours."

A MERCHANT.

A merchant, originally from Liverpool, having acquired a large fortune in one of the West India islands, concluded that he could not be happy in the enjoyment of it, unless he shared it with a woman of merit; and knowing none to his fancy, he resolved to write to a worthy correspondent in Liverpool. He knew no other style than that which he used in his trade; therefore, treating of affairs of love as he did of business, after giving his friend in a letter several commissions, and reserving this for the last, he went on thus:

"Item—Seeing that I have taken a resolution to marry, and that I do not find a suitable match for me here, do not fail to send, by next ship

bound hither, a young woman of the qualifications and form following :—As for a portion, I demand none. Let her be of an honest family, between twenty and twenty-five years of age, of a middle stature and well proportioned, her face agreeable, her temper mild, her character blameless, her health good, and her constitution strong enough to bear the change of the climate, that there may be no occasion to look out for a second through lack of the first, soon after she comes to hand, which must be provided against as much as possible, considering the great distance, and the dangers of the sea. If she arrives here, conditioned as above said, with the present letter indorsed by you, or at least, an attested copy thereof, that there may be no mistake or imposition, I hereby oblige and engage myself to satisfy the said letter, by marrying the bearer at fifteen days' sight. In witness whereof I subscribe this, &c."

The correspondent read over and over this odd article, which put the future spouse on the same footing with the bales of goods he was to send to his friend ; and, after admiring the prudent exactness of the West Indian, and his laconic style in enumerating the qualifications which he insisted on, he endeavoured to serve him to his mind ; and, after many inquiries, he judged he had found a lady fit for his purpose, in a young person of reputable family, but no fortune, of good humour and a polite education, well-shaped and more than tolerably handsome. He made the proposal to her as his friend had directed ; and the young gentlewoman, who had no subsistence but from a cross old aunt, who gave her a great deal of uneasiness, accepted it. A ship bound for the island was then fitting at

Liverpool, the gentlewoman went on board the same, together with the bales of goods, being well provided with all necessaries, and particularly with a certificate in due form, and indorsed by the correspondent. She was also included in the invoice, the last article of which run thus :

“ Item.—A young gentlewoman of twenty-five years of age, of the quality and shape, and conditioned as per order, as appears by the affidavits and certificates she has to produce.”

The writings which were thought necessary for so exact a man as her future husband, were, an extract of the parish register ; a certificate of her character, signed by the curate ; an attestation of her neighbours, setting forth that she had for the space of three years lived with an old aunt who was intolerably peevish, and had not, during all that time, given her said aunt the least occasion of complaint ; and, lastly, the goodness of her constitution was certified, after the consultation, by four physicians. Before the gentlewoman's departure, the correspondent sent several letters of advice by other ships to his friend, whereby he informed him that, *per such a ship*, he should send a young woman, of such an age, character, and condition, &c. ; in a word, such as he desired to marry.—The letters of advice, the bales, and the gentlewoman, came safe to port ; and the West Indian, who happened to be one of the foremost on the pier, at the lady's landing, was charmed to see a handsome person, who, having heard him called by his name, told him, “ Sir, I have a bill of exchange upon you, and you know that it is not usual for people to carry a great deal of money about them in such a long voyage as I have now made. I beg the favour you will

be pleased to pay it." At the same time shewing him his correspondent's letter; on the back of which was written, "The bearer of this is the spouse you ordered me to send you." "Ah, Madam!" said the West Indian, "I never yet suffered my bills to be protested; and I assure you this shall not be the first. I shall reckon myself the most fortunate of all men, if you allow me to discharge it." "Yes, Sir," replied she, "and the more willingly, since I am apprised of your character. We had several persons of honour on board, who knew you very well, and who, during my passage, answered all the questions I asked them concerning you in so advantageous a manner, that it has raised in me a perfect esteem for you."—The first interview was in a few days after followed by the nuptials, which were very magnificent, and the new-married couple were very well satisfied with their happy union made by a bill of exchange.

CLOVIS.

Erchionalde, mayor of the palace in the reign of Clovis II., bought from some pirates a girl of exquisite beauty, named Bandour, or Baltide, whom he afterwards presented to his sovereign. The monarch was so transported with her charms, that he thought he could not better grace his throne than by raising her to share it along with him. History does the fortunate fair one the justice to inform us, that while on the throne, she never forgot having been a slave; and that after the death of Clovis, having taken the veil, her mind became wholly purified from any passion for grandeur, and she appeared almost to forget that she had once been a queen.

A BLIND COUPLE.

A young man, quite blind, was married some time ago in Cheltenham parish church, to a very pretty young woman. The bridemaid was as blind as the bridegroom, and a little girl who accompanied the happy trio seemed defective also in her sight. The bride, with the blind bridegroom on one arm, and the blind bridemaid on the other, piloted the voyage to conjugal felicity.

“The bride, *love-blind*, for her blind bridegroom sighs,
And a blind bridemaid gives the bridegroom eyes.”

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

When the Marquis of Downshire, about fifty years ago, was about to proceed upon his travels, he begged some letters of introduction, amongst others, from the Reverend Mr. Burd, Dean of Carlisle, who had been his early friend. This gentleman communicated to his lordship one letter, recommending him to the favourable notice of almost his only continental acquaintance, Monsieur Carpentier of Paris, an individual who held the lucrative office of provider of post-horses to the royal family of France. The unhappy result of this new association was the elopement of Madame Carpentier, a very beautiful woman, in company with his lordship. The only step taken by the husband in this case was to transmit his two children, a boy and girl, to his frail wife, with a desire, signified or implied, that she would undertake the duty of bringing them up. The children, accordingly, lived for some years with their mother, under the general protection of Lord Downshire, till at length the lady died, and the young nobleman found

himself burdened with a responsibility which he probably had not calculated upon at the time of his quitting Paris. However, he placed the girl in a French convent for her education, and soon after, by an exertion of patronage, had the boy sent out on a lucrative appointment to India, his name having been previously changed, on his naturalization as a British subject, to Carpenter. It was a stipulation before the young man received his appointment, that two hundred pounds of his annual salary should fall regularly every year to his sister, of whose support Lord Downshire was thus cleared, though he continued to consider himself as her guardian. Miss Carpenter in time returned to London, and was placed under the charge of a governess named Miss Nicholson, who, however, could not prevent her from forming an attachment to a youthful admirer, whose addresses were not agreeable to the marquis. His lordship, having learned that a change of scene was necessary, wrote hastily to Mr. Burd, requesting him to seek for a cottage in his own neighbourhood among the Cumberland lakes, fit for the reception of two young ladies who could spend two hundred a-year. Mr. Burd, having made the desired inquiries, wrote to inform his lordship that there was such a place near his own house, but that it would require a certain time to put it into repair. He heard no more of the matter, till, a few days after, as he and Mrs. Burd were on the point of setting out for Gilsland Wells, on account of the delicate health of the latter individual, they were surprised by the arrival of two young ladies at their door in a post-chaise, being the persons alluded to by the marquis. His lordship had found it convenient to send them off to the care of Mr. Burd, even at the hazard of the house

not being ready for their reception. This was at the end of the month of August, or beginning of September, 1797. The dilemma occasioned by the unexpected arrival of the young ladies was of a very distressing kind, and Mrs. Burd was afraid that it would, for one thing, put a stop to her intended expedition to Gilsland. Her husband, however, finally determined that their journey thither should still hold good, and that, to place his guests above inconvenience, they should join the party proceeding to the Spa.

Having duly arrived at Gilsland, which is situated near the borders of Scotland, they took up their residence at the inn, where, according to the custom of such places, they were placed, as the latest guests, at the bottom of the table. It chanced that a young Scotch gentleman had arrived the same afternoon, though only as a passing traveller, and he, being also placed at the bottom of the table, came into close contact with the party of Mr. Burd. Enough of conversation took place during dinner to let the latter individuals understand that the gentleman was a Scotchman, and this was in itself the cause of the acquaintance being protracted. Mrs. Burd was intimate with a Scotch military gentleman, a Major Riddell, whose regiment was then in Scotland ; and as there had been a collision between the military and the people at Tranent, on account of the militia act, she was anxious to know if her friend had been among those present, or if he had received any hurt. After dinner, therefore, as they were rising from table, Mrs. Burd requested her husband to ask the Scotch gentleman if he knew any thing of the late riots, and particularly if a Major Riddell had been concerned in suppressing them. On these questions

being put, it was found that the stranger knew Major Riddell intimately, and he was able to assure them, in very courteous terms, that his friend was quite well. From a desire to prolong the conversation on this point, the Burds invited their informant to drink tea with them in their own room, to which he very readily consented, notwithstanding that he had previously ordered his horse to be brought to the door in order to proceed upon his journey. At tea, their common acquaintance with Major Riddell furnished much pleasant conversation, and the parties became so agreeable to each other, that, in a subsequent walk to the Wells, the stranger still accompanied Mr. Burd's party. He had now ordered his horse back to the stable, and talked no more of continuing his journey. It may be easily imagined that a desire of discussing the major was not *now* the sole bond of union between the parties. Mr. Scott, for so he gave his name, had been impressed during the earlier part of the evening, with the elegant and fascinating appearance of Miss Carpenter, and it was on her account that he was lingering at Gilsland. Of this young lady, it will be observed, he could have previously known nothing: she was hardly known even to the respectable persons under whose protection she appeared to be living. She was simply a lovely woman, and a young poet was struck with her charms.

Next day Mr. Scott was still found at the Wells—and the next—and the next—in short, every day for a fortnight. He was as much in the company of Mr. Burd and his family as the equivocal foundation of their acquaintance would allow; and by affecting an intention of speedily visiting the lakes, he even contrived to obtain an invitation to the dean's

country house in that part of England. In the course of this fortnight, the impression made upon his heart by the young Frenchwoman was gradually deepened ; and it is not improbable, notwithstanding the girlish love affair in which Miss Carpenter had been recently engaged, that the effect was already in some degree reciprocal. He only tore himself away, in consequence of a call to attend certain imperative matters of business at Edinburgh.

It was not long ere he made his appearance at Mr. Burd's house, where, though the dean had only contemplated a passing visit, as from a tourist, he contrived to enjoy another fortnight of Miss Carpenter's society. In order to give a plausible appearance to his intercourse with the young lady, he was perpetually talking to her in French, for the ostensible purpose of perfecting his pronunciation of that language under the instructions of one to whom it was vernacular. Though delighted with the lively conversation of the young Scotchman, Mr. and Mrs. Burd could not now help feeling uneasy about his proceedings, being apprehensive as to the construction which Lord Downshire would put upon them, as well as upon their own conduct in admitting a person of whom they knew so little to the acquaintance of his ward. Miss Nicholson's sentiments were, if possible, of a still more painful kind, as, indeed, her responsibility was more onerous and delicate. In this dilemma, it was resolved by Mrs. Burd to write to a friend in Edinburgh, in order to learn something of the character and status of their guest. The answer returned was to the effect, that Mr. Scott was a respectable young man, and rising at the bar. It chanced at the same time that one of Mr. Scott's female friends, who did not, however, entertain this

respectful notion of him, hearing of some love adventure in which he had been entangled at Gilsland, wrote to this very Mrs. Burd, with whom she was acquainted, inquiring if she had heard of such a thing, and "what kind of a young lady was it, who was going to take Watty Scott?" The poet soon after found means to conciliate Lord Downshire to his views in reference to Miss Carpenter, and the marriage took place at Carlisle within four months of the first acquaintance of the parties.

The match, made up under such extraordinary circumstances, was a happy one ; a kind and gentle nature resided in the bosoms of both parties, and they lived accordingly in the utmost peace and amity. The bounteous but unostentatious beneficence of Lady Scott will long be remembered in the rural circle where she presided ; and though her foreign education gave a tinge of oddity to her manners, she formed an excellent mistress to the household of her illustrious husband, and an equally excellent mother to his children. One of the last acts of Sir Walter Scott, before the illness which carried her to the tomb, was to discharge an attached and valued servant who had forgotten himself one day so far as to speak disrespectfully to his mistress. He lamented the necessity of parting with such a servant, and one who had been so long with him ; but he could not overlook an insult to one whom he held so dear.

A BEGGAR.

Dean Swift being in the country on a visit to his friend Dr. Sheridan, they were informed that a beggar's wedding was about to be celebrated. Sheridan played well upon the violin ; Swift, therefore,

proposed that he should go to the place where the ceremony was to be performed disguised as a blind fiddler, while he attended him as his man. Thus accoutred they set out, and were received by the jovial crew with great acclamation. They had plenty of good cheer, and never was a more joyous wedding seen : all was mirth and frolic ; the beggars told stories, played tricks, cracked jokes, sung and danced in a manner which afforded high amusement to the fiddler and his man, who were well rewarded when they departed, which was not till late in the evening. The next day the Dean and Sheridan walked out in their usual dress, and found many of their late companions hopping about upon crutches, or pretending to be blind, pouring forth melancholy complaints and supplications for charity. Sheridan distributed among them the money he had received ; but the Dean, who hated all mendicants, fell into a violent passion, telling them of his adventure of the preceding day, and threatening to send every one of them to prison. This had such an effect, that the blind opened their eyes, and the lame threw away their crutches, running away as fast as their legs could carry them.

A YOUNG MAN IN INDIA.

When the celebrated Warren Hastings was governor-general of India, a young gentleman of the name of Montgomery was engaged to a lady whom he could not marry on account of the total want of fortune between the parties. The story was mentioned to Mr. Hastings, with many encomiums on the deserving qualities of the subject of it. On this he sent for Mr. Montgomery, and asked him if want of a competence was the only obstacle to his wishes. On being told

it was, he presented him with a paper which at once left Mr. Montgomery without further complaints against fortune, and in astonishment at the generous use which Mr. Hastings made of it.

JAMES I.

The following extract will, on several accounts, be read with interest. “ We must not omit to mention, in 1664, so important and so extraordinary a passage in the Duke’s life as was his first marriage with the Lord Chancellor’s daughter,—extraordinary indeed, both in itself and in the consequences, both good and bad, which in process of time followed from it. When the Princess of Orange came to Paris to see the Queen, her mother, the Duke being there at the time, as has been before mentioned, Mrs. Ann Hide was one of her maids of honour who there attended her : it happened that, after some conversation together, the Duke fell in love with her, she having witt and other qualitys capable of surprising a heart less inclinable to thee sexe than was that of his royal highness in the first warmth of his youth. She indeed shew’d both her witt and her vertue in managing the affaire so dexterously that the Duke, overmaster’d by his passion, at last gave her a promise of marriage, some time before the Restoration ; not long after which, the Lord Chancellor, her father, being then uppermost in the King’s favour, the Duke chose that time to beg his Majesty’s leave to perform what he had promised ; which, at first, his Majesty positively refused, and used many arguments to dissuade the Duke from the resolution ; and not only his Majesty, but many of the Duke’s friends, and most especially some of his meniall servants,

with a violent zeal opposed the match. However, the Duke still continuing constant in his resolution to be true in his word, and chusing rather to undergo the censure of being fraile in promising, then of being unjust in breaking his promise,) the King at last after much importunity, consented to the marriage ; and it may well be supposed that my Lord Chancellor did his part, but with great caution and circumspection, to soften the King in that matter, which in every respect seem'd so much for his own advantage. The King's leave being thus obtain'd, the Duke, without loss of time, privately married the young lady, and soon after own'd the marriage. It must be confessed that what she wanted in birth was so well made up in other endowments, that her carriage afterwards did not misbecome her acquired dignity."

M. DE MIRAVIN.

Monsieur de Miravin, a young gentleman of Paris, possessed, in addition to a great deal of wit and vivacity, the amazing faculties of a ventriloquist. On his father's death, finding himself possessed of little more than the advantages of education, he resolved to make this talent subservient to some purpose of utility. He accordingly, by assuming a garb of piety and reserve, introduced himself into the family of a rich citizen, who had an only daughter, the heiress of an immense fortune. One day, as they were conversing on religious subjects, the citizen heard a voice solemnly whispering in his ear, " If thou dost not give thy daughter in marriage to this young man within three days, thou shalt die." The old man started with horror, and, casting his eyes on

M. de Miravin, saw that his lips were unmoved, and that his countenance expressed nothing but amazement. The mother of the young lady, who was present, strongly recommended an immediate conclusion of the match, that her husband might escape his impending fate. He, more suspicious, adjourned to the church of Notre Dame, there to seek for comfort and information. He had not been many minutes on his knees, when he heard, from behind the altar, the word "Obey!" repeated thrice in the same solemn accent as the former warning. He returned home, and the next day made M. de Miravin his son-in-law, and one of the richest men in Paris.

A PRUSSIAN COUPLE.

The late King of Prussia used to dress in so plain a manner, that when he travelled about his states, such of his subjects as did not know him, treated him with no other respect than they would an ordinary man. Once, as he was riding about Berlin, without attendance, and very plainly clad, he perceived a young woman digging in a field, of a gigantic stature, being near seven feet high. It is well known that the King had a particular predilection for tall men; and he spared no expense to procure them from all parts of Europe, for forming, as he did, his regiments of giants and grenadiers out of them. At the sight of this tall woman, he imagined that a couple of this kind must produce very large children. He dismounted, and coming up to the peasant, entered into conversation with her, and was overjoyed to hear that she was but nineteen years old, unmarried, and that her father was a shoemaker. Hereupon he sat down, and wrote the following note to the colonel of his guards:—

“ You are to marry the bearer of this note with the tallest of my grenadiers. Take care that the ceremony be performed immediately, and in your presence. You must be responsible to me for the execution of this order. ’Tis absolute, and the least delay will make you criminal in my sight.”

The King gave this letter to the young woman, without informing her of its contents, and ordered her to deliver it punctually according to the directions, and not to fail, as it was on an affair of great consequence ; he afterwards made her a handsome present, and continued his route.

The young woman, who had not the least imagination that it was the King who spoke to her, believing it was indifferent whether the letter was delivered by another, so that it came safe to hand, made a bargain with an old woman, whom she charged with the commission, laying an express injunction on her to say that she had it from a man of such a garb and mien. The old woman faithfully executed her message. The colonel, surprised at the contents of the letter, could not reconcile them with the age and figure of the bearer ; yet the order being peremptory, he thought he could not without danger recede from obeying, and fancied that his master wanted to punish the soldier for some misdemeanour, by matching him in so disagreeable a manner. In short, the marriage was celebrated before him, to the great regret of the grenadier, whilst the old woman, exulting with joy, assumed an air of the highest satisfaction.

Some time after, the King, on his return to Berlin, was eager to see the couple he had ordered to be married. When they were presented to him he fell into a passion. The colonel in vain endeavoured to justify himself, and the King was implacable till the

old woman confessed the truth, finishing her tale by raising her eyes to heaven, and thanking providence for conferring on her a benefit, the more signal and acceptable to her because unexpected.

MARRIAGE GEM.

In the Duke of Marlborough's collection of antique gems, is a group of emblematical figures, representing the marriage of Cupid and Psyche ; a description of which will not be unacceptable. They are of exquisite beauty, highly descriptive of the Marriage Union, finely engraved upon an onyx, by Tryphon, an ancient Greek artist.

1st. Both are represented as winged, to show the alacrity with which the husband and wife should help, comfort, and support each other ; preventing as much as possible the intimation of a wish or want on either side by fulfilling it before it can be expressed.

2nd. Both are veiled, to show that modesty is an inseparable attendant on pure matrimonial enjoyment.

3rd. Hymen, or Marriage, goes before them with a lighted torch, leading them by a chain, of which each has hold, to show that they are united together, and are bound to each other, and that they are led to this by the pure flame of love, which at the same instant both enlightens and warms them.

4th. This chain is not iron or brass, to intimate that the marriage union is a state of thralldom or slavery, but is a chain of pearls, to show that the union is precious, delightful, and beautiful.

5th. They hold a dove, the emblem of conjugal fidelity, which they appear to embrace affectionately, to show that they are faithful to each other, not

merely through duty, but by affection, and that this fidelity contributes to the happiness of their lives.

6th. A winged Cupid, or Love, is represented as having gone before them preparing the nuptial feast ; to intimate that active affections, warm and cordial love, are to them a continual source of comfort and enjoyment, and that this is the entertainment they are to meet with at every step of their lives.

7th. Another Cupid, or genius of love, comes behind, and places on their heads a basket of ripe fruits, to intimate that a matrimonial union of this kind will generally be blest with children, who shall be as pleasing to all their senses, as ripe and delicious fruits are to the smell and taste.

8th. The genius of love that follows them, has his wings shrivelled up, or the feathers all curled, so as to render them utterly unfit for flight, to intimate that love is to abide with them, that there is to be no separation in affliction : but that they are to continue to love one another with pure and fervent affection ; thus love begins and continues this sacred union, which death alone can dissolve, for God has yoked them together.

Miss Diadema Thorn was married in America, and the following lines were written on the event :

Lovers, ye well may envy them,
Whom such fair joys adorn ;
His hand receives a Diadem,
And she has lost a Thorn.

MATRIMONIAL STATISTICS.

The following state of matrimony is copied from a magazine for 1763.

Wives eloped from their husbands, 1,362 ; married pairs in a state of separation, 4,420 ; husbands left their wives, 2,361 ; married pairs living in a state of open war, 191,013 ; married pairs living in a state of inward hatred, 162,320 ; married pairs being in a state of coldness and indifference, 510,132 ; married pairs reputed happy in the esteem of the world, 1,102 ; married pairs comparatively happy, 135 ; married pairs absolutely and entirely happy, 9.

The following curious statement by Dr. Granville is drawn up from the registered cases of 876 married women. It is the first ever constructed to exhibit to ladies their chances of marriage at various ages. Of the 876 females there were married—

No.	Age.	No.	Age.	No.	Age.
3	at 13	59	at 23	5	at 32
11	— 14	53	— 24	7	— 33
16	— 15	36	— 25	5	— 34
43	— 16	24	— 26	2	— 35
45	— 17	28	— 27	0	— 36
77	— 18	22	— 28	2	— 37
115	— 19	17	— 29	0	— 38
118	— 20	9	— 30	1	— 39
86	— 21	7	— 31	0	— 40
8	— 22				

From this curious statistical table, our fair readers may form a pretty correct judgment of the chances which they have of entering into the holy state of matrimony, and of enjoying the sweets of wedded love. They will observe that the chances are most in their favour at the ages of 19 and 20, after which the chances turn against them. So far this is all very well for the ages of 19 and 20. It would be erroneous,

however, to infer that women never marry at 40 because Dr. Granville's table says so. 36, 38, and 40, are their blank ages ; but that is an accident : and there are various ways of accounting for it. Without offence to our fair readers or Dr. Granville, we must state that we distrust all sorts of statistical reports, where the ages of women are concerned ; no marriageable woman ever reaches the age of 40, by her own confession ; it is impolite to say so ; and it is plain the Doctor did not consult the register.

CHAPTER II.

FAMILY INTERCOURSE.

SECTION I.—HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

MARQUIS AND COUNTESS OF EXETER.

THE late Marquis of Exeter was divorced from his first wife in 1791 ; he retired into the country under the name of Cecil, and lived a private life. His residence was a village in Shropshire, where he first lodged at the rural inn. As he had plenty of money, and was very liberal, he was suspected as an Indian nabob, and his company shunned. As he passed along, he often heard the rustics exclaim, " There goes the London gentleman." Taking a dislike to his situation at the inn, he sought out a farm-house, where he might board and lodge ; several families had refused to take him in because he was " too fine a gentleman, and they could not understand how he came by his money." At length he found a situation which answered his purpose ; and, in consideration of his liberal offers, and the knowledge of his possessing money, a farmer fitted up a room for him. Here he continued to reside for about two years, going to London twice in the year, and returning with such money as he had occasion for. When he departed, the country peo-

ple thought he was gone to gather in his rents, and became more assured of this from his always returning with plenty of cash.

Time hanging heavy on his hands, he purchased some land, on which he intended to build a house ; but, for the reasons mentioned, neither stone-mason nor carpenter would undertake the job. He did not condescend to contradict the reports of the villagers ; but, offering to pay so much money beforehand, the tradesmen, after some grave consultation together, agreed to finish his work ; this was done accordingly, and every person was paid to the full extent of his demands.

The farmer, at whose cottage his lordship resided, had a daughter, about seventeen years of age, whose rustic beauties threw at an infinite distance all that his lordship had ever beheld in the circle of fashion.

Although this charming girl was placed in a humble lot of life, his lordship perceived that her beauty would adorn, and her virtues shed a lustre on, the most elevated situation. One day, when the farmer returned from his plough, Mr. Cecil frankly told him and his wife that he liked their daughter Sarah, and would marry her, if they would give their consent. " Marry our daughter !" exclaimed Mrs. Hoggins, " what, to a fine gentleman ! no, indeed ! " " Yes, marry her," said the husband ; " he shall marry her, for she likes him. Has he not house and land too, and plenty of money to keep her ? " In fine, the matter was arranged, and Mr. Cecil married this charming rustic. Masters of every kind were now procured ; and, in twelve months, Mrs. Cecil became an accomplished woman, to the envy of the country girls around, and to the astonishment of the villagers,

who now began to be reconciled to the supposed too-fine a gentleman.

It was not long before news arrived of his uncle's death, in Dec. 1793, when he found it necessary to repair to town. He accordingly set out, taking his wife with him, as on a tour of pleasure ; and, on his journey, called at the seats of several noblemen, where, to the utter astonishment of his wife, he was welcomed in the most friendly manner. At last they arrived at Burleigh, in Lincolnshire, the beautiful patrimonial seat of his lordship ; and on approaching the house, he asked, with an air of unconcern, whether she would like to be at home there : on which she exclaimed, " that it exceeded all she had seen, and was the only similar place on which she could desire to reside." " Then," said he, "*it is yours, and you are the Countess of Exeter ;*" and on making his appearance in front of the house, he was instantly recognised, and received with acclamations of joy by the family and domestics. As soon as he had settled his affairs he returned into Shropshire, discovered his rank to his wife's father and mother, put them into the house he had built there, and settled on them an income of 700*l.* per annum. He afterwards took the countess with him to London, and introduced her to the fashionable world, where she was respected and admired till her death in January 1797, aged only twenty-four. She left two sons and a daughter, heirs to the family honours.

SADI AND HIS WIFE. ○

Sadi was an eminent poet, who became early enamoured of a wandering life, and was, consequently, taken by the crusaders, and compelled to labour as

a slave at the fortifications of Tripoli. From this state he was relieved by a merchant of Aleppo, who not only paid ten golden crowns for his ransom, but gave him his daughter, with a dowry of a hundred. The lady, however, proved extremely violent in her temper ; and Sadi shows, in several of his works, that he was excessively chagrined with his marriage. Among other insults, she is said to have mentioned as a reproach, that her father had bought him from the Christians for ten crowns : “ Yes,” replied the unhappy poet, with a sigh, “ and sold me to you for a hundred.”

QUEEN ELEANOR.

This queen, who saved the life of her royal husband at the risk of her own, was the daughter of Ferdinand III., king of Castile. Edward I., when in the Holy Land, was stabbed by a Saracen ; and on having immediate recourse to the advice of his medical attendants, was informed that no human means would avail in averting the mortal consequence of the wound. Eleanor immediately ventured her own existence in sucking from the wound the poison. It has been recorded by several historians ; and there can be no doubt of this romantic instance of love and affection being authentic. “ So sovereign a remedy is a woman’s tongue, anointed with the virtue of loving affection,” says Fuller in his “ Holy Warre.”

REV. MR. SHELLEY.

The Rev. Mr. Shelly, a clergyman at Cambridge in the seventeenth century, is described as “ an old-

fashioned good man." The old gentleman made the following rhymes on a " sudden, as he was going to preach in his parish church, in answer to one of his parishioners, who asked, How long, sir, have you and Mrs. Shelly been married ?" The excellent lesson inculcated must be our apology for laying them before the reader.

" Fifty years and three,
Together in love, liv'd we :
Angry both at once none ever did us see.
This was the fashion,
God taught us, and not fear,
When one was in a passion,
The other could forbear."

A WISE COUPLE.

A man and his wife were, on a certain occasion, enlisted in a dispute, which of them had committed the fault in some trifling occurrence ; at length the husband, perceiving that it might amount to something unpleasant, kindly and sweetly remarked, " Well, my dear, I had as lief it would be I as you that committed the fault, for we have but one interest, and but one character." " Yes, my dear," replied the wife, " and I would as lief it would be myself as you." Of course the quarrel was healed in a moment.

MR. AND MRS. S.

The following anecdote is given in an American publication, to illustrate the evil of an unyielding temper in domestic life. We would hope the evil complained of is seldom found to so great an extent, but its very existence should be carefully guarded against.

A man and his wife, whom we will call Mr. and Mrs. S., sat dining very affectionately together upon baked meat and beans. Mr. S., without thinking any evil, said, "My dear, your beans are quite too salt to-day." Mrs. S., who had been herself the cook, and who always had an exalted opinion of whatever she did, took this in ill-humour, and tartly replied, "They are not too salt." The manner of the reply a little moved Mr. S., and he repeated again, "They are too salt." She, with a raised tone of voice, said, as before, "They are not too salt." The contradiction passed backward and forward, till Mrs. S., who always would have the last word, said, "They are not a bit too salt," arose hastily, and left the table and the house. Ten long years intervened. Then, providentially, Mr. S. and his wife fell into company. He very pleasantly asked, "Are you not going home?" She as pleasantly replied, "I believe I shall," and accordingly went. For some time things went on in perfect harmony; but at length, as they were one day dining, Mr. S. very imprudently said, "Those beans were too salt;" Mrs. S. as imprudently rejoined, "They were not too salt." Mr. S. said, "I insist upon it they were too salt."—Mrs. S. said, "I know they were not too salt," instantly left the house, and never returned.

We cannot but be reminded of the lines of the poet Cowper, in connexion with this subject:—

The kindest and the happiest pair
Will find occasion to forbear;
And something every day they live
To pity, and perhaps—*forgive.*

A DRUNKARD AND HIS WIFE.

A drunkard, who had been robbed by a companion in a public-house, was asked why he did not

leave his money at home with his wife ? " Because, if I did," he replied, " I should never have seen it again ? "

Is it not probable that this was a good wife, who would have saved her husband and family from ruin, had the opportunity been afforded to her ? Happy indeed would it be for thousands could such men be kept without money.

LAVALETTE AND HIS WIFE.

The device adopted by the Countess of Nithsdale to rescue her husband from an ignominious death, was imitated with equal success by Madame Lavalette, in 1815.

M. Lavalette had been condemned, for his adherence to the cause of Bonaparte, to suffer death. The eve of the day of execution, the 24th of December, had already arrived ; and all hope of saving him had been abandoned, except by one heroic woman alone.

Madame Lavalette's health had been very seriously impaired by her previous sufferings ; and for several weeks preceding, in order to avoid the movement of her carriage, she had used a sedan chair. About half-past three, on the afternoon of the 23rd, she arrived at the Conciergerie, seated as usual in this chair, and clothed in a furred riding coat of red merino, with a large black hat and feathers on her head. She was accompanied by her daughter, a young lady of about twelve years of age, and an elderly woman, attached to M. Lavalette's service, of the name of Dutoit. The chair was ordered to wait for her at the gate of the Conciergerie.

At five o'clock Jaques Eberle, one of the wicket-

keepers of the Conciergerie, who had been specially appointed by the keeper of the prison to the guard and service of Lavalette, took his dinner to him, of which Madame and Mademoiselle Lavalette, and the widow Dutoit, partook.

After dinner, which lasted an hour, Eberle served up coffee, and left Lavalette's apartment, with orders not to return till he was rung for.

Towards seven o'clock the bell rung. Roquette, the gaoler, was at that moment near the fire-place of the hall, with Eberle, to whom he immediately gave orders to go into Lavalette's chamber. Roquette heard Eberle open the door which led to that chamber, and immediately after he saw three persons, dressed in female attire, advance, who were followed by Eberle. The person whom he took to be Madame Lavalette was attired in a dress exactly the same as she was, in every particular; and to all outward appearance, no one could have imagined but that they saw that lady herself passing before them. A white handkerchief covered the face of this person, who seemed to be sobbing heavily, while Mademoiselle Lavalette, who walked by the side, uttered the most lamentable cries. Every thing presented the spectacle of a family given up to the feelings of a final adieu. The keeper, melted and deceived by the disguise and scanty light of two lamps, had not the power, as he afterwards said, to take away the handkerchief which concealed the features of the principal individual in the groupe; and instead of performing his duty, presented his hand to the person, (as he had been used to do to Madame Lavalette,) whom he conducted, along with the other two persons, to the last wicket. Eberle then stepped forward, and ran to call Madame Lavalette's chair. It

came instantly ; the feigned Madame Lavalette stepped into it, and was slowly carried forward, followed by Mademoiselle Lavalette and the widow Dutoit. When they had reached the Quay des Orfevres they stopped ; Lavalette came out of the chair, and in an instant disappeared.

Soon after the keeper, Roquette, entered the chamber of Lavalette, where he saw no one, but heard some one stirring behind the screen, which formed part of the furniture of the apartment. He concluded it was Lavalette, and withdrew without speaking. After a few minutes, he returned a second time and called ; no one answered. He began to fear some mischief ; advanced beyond the screen, and there saw Madame Lavalette. "*Il est parti !*" she tremulously ejaculated. " Ah ! madame," exclaimed Roquette, " you have deceived me." He wished to run out to give the alarm, but Madame L. caught hold of him by the coat sleeve. " Stay, Monsieur Roquette, stay." " No, madame, this is not to be borne." A struggle ensued, in which the coat was torn ; but Roquette at last forced himself away, and gave the alarm.

Lavalette, after having escaped from the Conciergerie, was still far from being out of danger. He had to get out of Paris ; out of France ; and a more difficult achievement it is difficult to conceive ; for the moment his escape was discovered, nothing could exceed the activity with which he was sought after by the agents of government. Bills describing his person with the greatest exactness were quickly distributed all over France ; and there was not a postmaster, postilion, or gens-d'arme, on any of the roads, who had not one of them in his pocket. Lavalette sought the means of escape, not among those of his countrymen whom he knew to be attached to

the cause for which he was prosecuted : nor even to those whom affection or gratitude bound to his family ; but among those strangers whose presence as conquerors, on his native soil, he had so much cause to lament. He had heard, that to a truly British heart the pleadings of humanity were never made in vain, and he was now to make the experiment in his own person, of the truth of the eulogium. On the 2nd or 3rd of January, he sent a person with an unsigned letter to Mr. Michael Bruce, an English gentleman resident at Paris ; in which, after extolling the goodness of his heart, the writer said, he was induced, by the confidence which he inspired, to disclose to him a great secret—that Lavalette was still in Paris ; adding, that he (Bruce) alone could save him, and requesting him to send a letter to a certain place, stating whether he would embark in the generous design. Mr. Bruce was touched with commiseration ; he spoke on the subject to two other countrymen, Sir Robert Wilson and Captain Hutchinson ; and the result was, that the whole three joined in a determination to afford the unfortunate fugitive every assistance in their power to complete his escape. The scheme they devised was crowned with perfect success. Lavalette was conveyed in safety into a neutral territory, where he lived in quiet obscurity until the fury of the party persecution which exiled him having exhausted itself, he was restored, by a free pardon, to his country, his family, and his friends.

It was a gratifying thing to observe, that the tribute due to the conjugal heroism of Madame Lavalette was universally paid, both in France and throughout Europe ; even party animosity, which was daily calling for the execution of the husband,

did justice to the wife. When the heads of the different departments were each vindicating themselves to the king from any share in the blame of his escape, his majesty coolly replied, "I do not see that any body has done their duty except Madame Lavalette."

A JEWISH WIFE.

"He that hath found a virtuous wife, hath a greater treasure than costly pearls."

Such a treasure had the celebrated teacher Rabbi Meir found. He sat during the whole of one Sabbath day in the public school, and instructed the people. During his absence from his house, his two sons, both of them of uncommon beauty, and enlightened in the law, died. His wife bore them to her bed-chamber, laid them upon the marriage-bed, and spread a white covering over their bodies. Towards evening Rabbi Meir came home. "Where are my beloved sons," he asked, "that I may give them my blessing?" "They are gone to the school," was the answer. "I repeatedly looked round the school," he replied, "and I did not see them there." She reached him a goblet; he praised the Lord at the going out of the Sabbath, drank, and again asked, "Where are my sons, that they may drink of the cup of blessing?" "They will not be far off," she said, and placed food before him, that he might eat. He was in a gladsome and genial mood, and when he had said grace after the meal, she thus addressed him:—"Rabbi, with thy permission, I would fain propose to thee one question." "Ask it, then, my love!" he replied. "A few days ago, a person entrusted some jewels to my custody, and now he demands them again: should I give them back

again?" "This is a question," said Rabbi Meir, "which my wife should not have thought it necessary to ask. What! wouldest thou hesitate or be reluctant to restore to every one his own?" "No," she replied, "but yet I thought it best not to restore them without acquainting thee therewith." She then led him to their chamber, and, stepping to the bed, took the white covering from their bodies. "Ah, my sons! my sons!" thus loudly lamented the father: "My sons! the light of mine eyes, and the light of my understanding; I was your father, but ye were my teachers in the law!" The mother turned away, and wept bitterly. At length she took her husband by the hand, and said, "Rabbi, didst thou not teach me that we must not be reluctant to restore that which was intrusted to our keeping? See, 'the Lord gave, the Lord has taken away, and blessed be the name of the Lord!'" "Blessed be the name of the Lord!" echoed Rabbi Meir, "and blessed be his name for thy sake too! for well is it written, 'He that has found a virtuous woman has a greater treasure than costly pearls. She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the instruction of kindness.'"

A DEPRESSED PAIR.

A gentleman and his wife were reduced from a life of splendour and luxury, by unavoidable misfortunes, to a more moderate way of living. He had been, since their misfortunes, extremely morose and gloomy, and it was a lively reply of his affectionate wife that caused a change. "Wife," said he one morning, "my affairs are embarrassed, and it is necessary I should curtail my expenses. I should like

to have your opinion as to the reduction." He said this in a more gentle tone than usual. "My dear husband," said she, "I shall be perfectly happy if you will get rid of the *sulky*, and let us retain the *sociable*."

JOSEPH AND MARGERY CARON.

Mr. Lysons, in his very curious work, entitled "The Environs of London," gives, under the head of Chelsea, the following whimsical articles of agreement between a man and his wife:—

"October 9, 1629.

"It was agreed between Joseph Caron and Margery his wife, in manner and forme following :

"I, Joseph Caron, doe willingly promise to my wife Margery, that upon condition that she will not hereafter make further inquiry into any thing that hath in time past occasioned jealousy on her part, I from this time forward will forbear the private company of any woman whom she may suspect to be dishonestly inclined ; and in particular, because of her former suspicions, how unjust soever, I doe promise to estrange myselfe from Mrs. Large and Mrs. Colmer, and whomsoever else she hath formerly suspected : and that I will forbear striking her, and provoking speeches, and be as often with her at meales as I can conveniently, and in all things carry myself as a loving husband ought to doe to his wife. In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name, the day and year above mentioned.

"JOSEPH CARON."

"I, Margery Caron, doe willingly promise to my foresaid husband, Joseph Caron, that, upon condition

that he performe faithfully what he hath promised, I will, from this day forward, forbear to enquire into any thing that hath in time past occasioned jealousy in me towards my husband ; and in particular doe acquit Mrs. Colmer by these presents, from any guilt of dishonesty with my husband, being now persuaded of her innocency therein, whatsoever I have formerly said to the contrary ; and doe promise for the time to come, the premises being duly performed on my husband's part, to carry myself towards him in all things as becometh a loving and a faythful wife. In witness whereof, I doe subscribe my name, the day and year above written.

“ MARGERY CARON.”

LADY PRICE.

A widow, of the name of Rugg, having taken Sir Charles Price for her second husband, and being asked by a friend how she liked the change, replied, “ Oh, I have sold my old Rugg for a good Price.”

AN AMERICAN COUPLE.

A curious circumstance occurred some time ago in Philadelphia. Guests were invited to attend a wedding, the clergyman was present, and all things in train ; just, however, as the ceremony was about to be performed, a paper was put into the minister's hands : it was the certificate of marriage four years old ; a hearty laugh and much jollity was of course the result. The young gentleman had been courting regularly, for four or five years, a married woman ; and had, in the mean time, studied a profession, and been licensed as a lawyer.

THE GERMAN WIVES.

When the duke of Bavaria was besieged in one of the cities of Germany, by the emperor Conrad the Third, and when the place was reduced to extremity, the women petitioned that they might be permitted to leave the town, taking with them nothing but what they could carry on their backs: their request was granted, when, instead of removing their gold and silver, as was expected, every wife was seen carrying her husband. The emperor was affected to tears, he spared the lives of the men, and gave the women the praise they deserved.

AN EGYPTIAN MONK.

Ammon, one of the fathers of the Egyptian monks, by the entreaties of his friends, consented to marry a young lady. On the evening of their nuptials, he conducted her into the wedding chamber, when he took up St. Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians, expounded to her the apostle's admonitions, and so effectually exhibited to her all the pains and inconveniences to which married women are peculiarly exposed, that she consented to elope with him to the deserts, and lead there a monastic life.

LADY COMPTON.

The following is copied from the original, preserved as a curiosity in the Harleian MSS., British Museum. The writer was Lady Compton, who lived in the reign of James I.

“ My sweet life,—Now I have declared to you

my mind for the settling of your state, I supposed that it were best for me to bethink and consider within myself, what allowance were meetest for me ; for considering what care I ever had of your estate, and how respectfully I dealt with those which both by the laws of God, of nature, and civil policy, wit, religion, government, and honesty, you, my dear, is bound to, I pray and beseech you to grant me, your most kind and loving wife, the sum of £26,000 quarterly to be paid. Also, I would, besides that allowance, have £600 quarterly to be paid, for the performance of charitable works ; and those things I would not, neither will be, accountable for. Also, I will have three horses for my own saddle, that none shall dare to lend or borrow : none lend but I, none borrow but you. Also, I would have two gentlewomen, lest one should be sick, or have some other let. Also, believe it, it is an indecent thing for a gentlewoman to stand mumping alone, when God hath blessed their lord and lady with a great estate. Also, when I ride a-hunting, or a-hawking, or travel from one house to another, I will have them attending me : so, for either of these said women, I must, and will have for either of them a horse. Also, I will have six or eight gentlemen ; and I will have my two coaches, one lined with velvet to myself, with four very fair horses ; and a coach for my women, lined with cloth, and laced with gold ; the other with scarlet, and laced with silver, with four good horses. Also, I will have two coachmen, one for my own coach, the other for my women. Also, at any time when I travel, I will be allowed, not only carrouches and spare horses, for me and my women, but I will have such carriages as shall be fitting for all, orderly, not pestering my things with

my women's, nor theirs with either chamber-maids'; nor theirs with wash-maids'. Also, with laundresses, when I travel, I will have them sent away before with the carriages, to see all safe. And the chamber-maids I will have go before, that the chamber may be ready, sweet, and clean. Also, for that it is undecent to crowd up myself with my gentleman-usher in my coach, I will have him to have a convenient horse to attend me, either in city or country. I must have two footmen; and my desire is, that you defray all the charges for me. And for myself, besides my yearly allowance, I would have twenty gowns of apparel, six of them excellent good ones, eight of them for the country, and six other of them very excellent good ones. Also, I would have to put in my purse £2,000 and £200, and so you to pay my debts. Also, I would have £6,000 to buy me a pearl chain. Now, seeing I have been, and am, so reasonable unto you, I pray you do find my children apparel, and their schooling, and all my servants, men and women, their wages. Also, I will have all my houses furnished; and my lodging-chambers to be suited with all such furniture as is fit; as beds, stools, chairs, suitable cushions, carpets, silver warming-pans, cupboards of plate, fair havings, and such like. So for my drawing-chamber in all houses, I will have them delicately furnished, both with hangings, couch, canopy, glass, carpets, chairs, cushions, and all things thereunto belonging. Also, my desire is, that you would pay your debts, build up Ashby House, and purchase lands, and lend no money, as you love God, to the Lord Chamberland, who would have all, perhaps you life, from you. So, now that I have declared to you what I would have, and what it is that I would not have, I pray, when you be an

I had the good fortune, says the intelligent writer, to travel from Brussels to Paris with a young Irish officer and his wife, an Antwerp lady of only sixteen, of great beauty and innocence. The husband was at the battle of Quatre-Bras as well as in that of Waterloo. The unexpected advance of the French called him off at a moment's notice to Quatre-Bras ; but he left with his wife, his servant, one horse, and the family baggage, which was packed upon an ass. Retreat at the time was not anticipated, but being suddenly ordered, he contrived to get a message to his wife, to make the best of her way, attended by the servant and baggage, to Brussels. The servant, a foreigner, had availed himself of the opportunity to take leave of both master and mistress, and make off with the horse, leaving the helpless young lady alone with the baggage-ass.

With a firmness becoming the wife of a British officer, she boldly commenced, on foot, her retreat of twenty-five miles, leading the ass by the bridle, and carefully preserving the baggage. No violence was dared by any one to so innocent a pilgrim, but no one could venture to assist her. She was soon in the midst of the retreating British army, and much retarded and endangered by the artillery ; her fatigue was great ; it rained in torrents, and the thunder and lightning were dreadful in the extreme. She continued to advance, and got upon the great road from Charleroi to Brussels, at Waterloo, in the evening, when the army were taking up their line for the awful conflict. In so extensive a field, among 80,000 men, it was vain to seek her husband ; she knew that the sight of her *there* would embarrass and distress him : she kept slowly advancing to Brussels all night, the road choked with all sorts of

conveyances, waggons, and horses ; multitudes of fugitives on the road, and many of the wounded walking their painful way, dropping at every step, and breathing their last ; here and there lay a corpse or a limb, particularly, as she said, several hands. Many persons were actually killed by others, if they by chance stood in the way of their endeavours to help themselves ; and to add to the horrors, the rain continued unabated, and the thunder and lightning still raged as if the heavens were torn to pieces.

Full twelve miles further, during the night, this young woman marched, up to her knees in mud, her boots worn entirely off, so that she was barefooted : but still, unhurt, she led her ass ; and, although thousands lost the baggage, and many their lives, she calmly entered Brussels in the morning in safety, self, ass, bag, and baggage, without the loss of an article. In a few hours after her arrival commenced the cannons' roar of the tremendous battle of Waterloo, exposed to which, for ten hours, she knew her husband would be ; she was rewarded, amply rewarded, by finding herself in her husband's arms, he unhurt, and she nothing the worse, on the following day. The officer told the tale himself with tears in his eyes. With a slight Irish accent, he called her his dear little woman, and said she became more valuable to him every day of his life.

MR. AND MRS. GOODCHILD.

The parish register at Bermondsey church contains the following extraordinary entry, made in the year 1604 :—" August. The forme of a solemne vowe made betwixt a man and his wife ; the man

havige bene longe absent, through which occasion the woman beinge married to another man, tooke her again as followeth :—The man's speech—Elizabeth, my beloved wife, I am right sorie that I have so long absented mysealfe from thee, whereby thou shouldst be occasioned to take another man to thy husband. Therefore I do nowe vowe and promise, in the sight of God and the companie, to take thee againe as mine owne ; and will not onlie forgive thee, but also dwell with thee, and do all other duties unto thee as I promised at our marriage. The woman's speech—Raphe, my beloved husband, I am right sorie that I have in thy absence taken another man to be my husband ; but here, before God and this companie, I do renounce and forsake him, and do promise to keep mysealfe only unto thee during life, and to performe all duties which I first promised unto thee in our marriage." The entry concludes thus :—" The first day of August, 1604, Raphe Goodchild, of the parish of Barkinge, in Thames-street, and Elizabeth, his wife, weare agreed to live together, and thereupon gave their hands one to another, makeinge either of them a solemn vowe so to doe, in the presence of William Stew, parson, Edward Croker, and Richard Eire, clerk."

A DUTCH COUPLE.

An old rich burgher, who was offered for his house and farm of 100 acres, an enormous sum of money, found considerable difficulty in reconciling his honest "vrow" to the sale. Having passed all her life under the shade of its venerable roof and sycamores, surrounded with its good old Dutch

kitchen, garden, and parterre of tulips, said she ; “ My tear, I vill not conshent to de sale ; what shall ve do for our garden ? where shall ve plant our cabbages and bodadoes ? ” “ But we will puy anoder farm, mine vrow,” said the husband.—“ Dat will never do, mine good husband ; vhere den shall ve plant our cabbages and bodadoes ? ” The old lady could not conceive another locality which possessed fertility.

HON. MRS. ERSKINE.

Some women are never happy unless when they are scrubbing, brushing, sweeping, or otherwise toiling in household affairs, although they have servants to do all that they require. The Honourable Henry Erskine’s first wife was one of this class, and her extreme nervous irritability and eccentric ways, it may be supposed, did not contribute greatly to Harry’s domestic happiness. One of her peculiarities consisted in not retiring to rest at the usual hours. She would frequently employ half the night in examining the wardrobe of the family, to see that nothing was missing, and that every thing was in its proper place. The following is told as a proof of her oddities :—One morning, about two or three o’clock, having been unsuccessful in a search, she awoke Mr. Erskine from a sound sleep, by putting to him this important interrogatory : “ Harry, lovie, where’s your white waistcoat ? ”

DUKE OF SOMERSET.

Perhaps no man ever carried his self-consequence higher than Edward Seymour, proverbially known by the name of the proud Duke of Somerset. His

second wife, one day, in a pleasant humour, coming into the room, suddenly seated herself upon his knee, threw her arms round his neck, and kissed him. Instead of receiving this conjugal salute with gallantry, the haughty grandee thus addressed her : “ Madam, my first wife was a Percy, and she would not have taken such a liberty.”

A MARRIED GENTLEMAN.

An elderly gentleman travelling in a stage-coach, was amused by the constant fire of words kept up between two ladies. One of them at last kindly inquired if their conversation did not make his head ache ; when he answered with a great deal of naivette, —“ No, ma’am, I have been *married twenty-eight years.*”

A FEARFUL HUSBAND.

“ If I’m not home from the party to-night at ten o’clock,” said a husband to his better and *bigger half*, “ don’t wait for me.” “ That I won’t,” said the lady, significantly, “ I won’t *wait*, but I’ll *come* for you.” He returned at ten precisely.

MILTON AND HIS WIFE.

It is well known that the distinguished Milton was for some time very unhappy with his first wife ; they lived apart, and he wrote largely to prove the lawfulness of divorce. He had nearly acted on the doctrine he had advocated ; for he was about to marry a Miss Davis, which was prevented by a very unexpected occurrence. Being at the house of a relation in St. Martin’s-le-grand, whom he often

visited, he was extremely surprised to meet his wife there, whom he had never expected to see again. She threw herself at his feet, confessed her fault, and with tears entreated his forgiveness. At first he appeared to be unmoved and inexorable; but at length, the generosity of his temper, and the intercession of some mutual friends, conquered his anger, and a perfect reconciliation took place, with a promise of oblivion of every thing that had happened. They lived happily together for some years, and had several children. From this scene the poet is supposed to have drawn the character of Eve, in "Paradise Lost."

GROTIUS AND HIS WIFE.

After the learned Grotius had been confined about a year in the castle of Louvenstein, to which imprisonment he was sentenced for life, his wife conceived and executed the means of his deliverance. Perceiving that the guards were not so strict as they had been in examining the chest which was made use of to carry books and linen to and from the prison, she persuaded her husband to get into it, and remain there as long as it would require to go from Louvenstein to Gorcum. Finding that he could endure the confinement, when holes were made in the chest to breathe through, Madame Grotius determined to seize the first opportunity of effecting her design. Accordingly, when the governor went to Heusden to raise recruits, she waited upon his lady, and told her that she was anxious to send away her husband's books; too great an application to which, she said, greatly injured his health. Having thus

prepared the commandant's wife, and at the same time spread abroad a general report that her husband was ill, on March 21, 1621, she, with the help of her servant-maid, shut him up in the chest. Two soldiers carried it; and one of them finding it heavier than usual, observed, "There must be an Arminian in it." To which Madame Grotius coolly replied, "Indeed, there are some Arminian books in it." The chest was then brought down on a ladder with great difficulty, and the extraordinary care which was taken in conveying it made one of the soldiers suspicious: he demanded the key; and upon its being refused, he went to the commandant's lady, who reprimanded him, saying, there were only books in the chest, and that they might carry it to the boat. While they were carrying it along, a soldier's wife said there was more than one instance of prisoners making their escape in boxes. However, the chest was placed in the boat, and taken to Gorcum, to the house of M. Dazelaer, a friend of Grotius; and when every body was gone, the servant unlocked the chest, and let her master out, who had suffered but little inconvenience, though the length was but three feet and a half. Being thus free, he dressed himself like a mason, with a trowel and rule in his hand, and going out at Dazelaer's back door, went to Valvic in Brabant, and from thence to Antwerp. In the meanwhile, it was believed at Louvenstein that he was ill; and to give him time to get clear off, his wife reported that his disorder was dangerous; but as soon as she learnt from her maid that he was safe, she acknowledged the fact. The commandant, in a great rage, put her under a rigid confinement; but, on presenting a petition to the States-general, they were ashamed of acting severely to a woman who

had conducted herself with so much magnanimity, and ordered her to be set at liberty.

LORD AND LADY OGILVIE.

In the year 1646, several noble persons were tried at St. Andrew's, in Scotland, for bearing arms in the royal army. Among others was Lord Ogilvie, eldest son of the Earl of Airly. After sentence of death was pronounced, Lord Ogilvie pretending to be sick, got so much favour as to have his wife, his mother, and sisters, allowed to visit him for the last time in prison. These ladies having entered his chamber, the guards showed him some respect, and went out of the room; and the young lord taking advantage of the opportunity, without loss of time put on the gown of one of his sisters, who was very like him, while, in the mean time, she threw herself into his bed, and put his nightcap upon her head. They acted their parts exceedingly well; for, after having several times embraced one another in appearance, they bid farewell for ever to one another, with abundance of tears. The guards having come in again with lights, to reconduct them, Ogilvie went out with the rest, without being discovered. He was no sooner got out than he mounted a good horse, and, with two friends, reached a place of safety before break of day. As soon as the news of his escape was carried to the Convention of Estates, rage so transported them that some of them had a mind to be revenged upon the ladies; but the Earls of Larnark and Lindsay maintained, that it was an action of natural affection worthy to be transmitted to posterity.

AN AMERICAN COUPLE.

Not long since, a clergyman in New Hampshire, being apprehensive that the accumulated weight of snow upon the roof of his barn might do some damage, resolved to shovel it off. He therefore ascended it ; but having first, for fear the snow might all slide off at once, himself with it, fastened to his waist one end of a rope, and giving the other to his wife, he went to work ; but fearing still for his safety, " My dear," said he, " tie the rope round your waist." No sooner had she done this, than off went the snow, minister and all, and up went his wife ! Thus on one side of the barn the astounded and confounded clergyman hung, and on the other side hung his wife, high and dry, in majesty sublime, dingling and dangling at the end of the rope. At that moment, however, a gentleman luckily passing by, delivered them from their perilous situation.

A TYRANNICAL HUSBAND.

" Wife," said a tyrannical husband to his abused consort, " I wish you to make me a pair of false bosoms." " I should think," replied she, " that one bosom as false as yours is would be sufficient."

WARD AND HIS WIFE.

Some time ago, a grave-digger, named Ward, residing in Globe-lane, Mile-end-road, quarrelled with his wife, and struck her a blow which sent her reeling against the mantel-piece, when out fell two guineas, which rolled on the floor. A cessation of hos-

tilities immediately took place, and an inquiry as to the source from whence the gold came, when the mantel-piece was examined and removed, and 170 guineas were found.

A LONDON LADY.

A young lady marrying a man she loved, and leaving many friends in town to retire with him into the country, Mrs. D. said prettily, "She has turned one and twenty shillings into a guinea."

AN HEIRESS.

A sprightly, rosy-cheeked, flaxen-haired little girl, used to sit, in the pleasant evenings of June, on the marble steps opposite my lodgings, says an American, when I lived in Philadelphia, and sing over a hundred little sonnets, and tell over as many tales, in a sweet voice, and with an air of simplicity that charmed me many a time. She was then an orphan child, and commonly reported to be rich. Often and often I sat, after a day of toil and vexation, and listened to her innocent voice, breathing forth the notes of peace and happiness, which flowed cheerfully from a light heart, and felt a portion of that tranquillity steal over my own bosom. Such was Eliza Hadley when I first knew her.

Several years had elapsed, during which time I had been absent from the city, when, walking along one of the most fashionable squares, I saw an elegant female step into a carriage, followed by a gentleman and two pretty children. I did not immediately recognize her face, but my friend, who was by my side, pulled my elbow: "Do you not remem-

ber little Eliza, who used to sing for us when we lived together in this great city?" I did remember—it was herself.

She used to be fond, said he, of treating her little circle of friends with romance; and at last she acted out a neat romance herself. She came out into the circles of life under the auspices of her guardians: it was said by some that she was rich—very rich, but the amount of her wealth was not a matter of publicity; however, the current, and, as was generally believed, well-founded report, was sufficient to draw around her many admirers, and, among the number, not a few serious courtiers.

She did not wait long before a young gentleman, on whom she had looked with a somewhat partial eye, because he was the gayest and handsomest of her lovers, emboldened by her partiality, made her an offer. Probably she blushed, and her heart fluttered a little; but they were sitting in a moon-light parlour, and as her embarrassment was more than half concealed, she soon recovered; and as a wag-gish humour happened to have the ascendant, she put on a serious face, told him she was honoured by his preference; but that there was one matter which she wished well understood before, by giving a reply, she bound him to his promise. Perhaps you may have thought me wealthy: I would not, for the world, have you labour under a mistake on that point;—I am worth eighteen hundred dollars.

She was proceeding, but the gentleman started, as if electrified: Eighteen hundred dollars! he repeated, in a manner that betrayed the utmost surprise; yes, ma'am, says he, awkwardly, I did understand you was worth a great deal more; but—

No, sir, she replied; no excuses or apologies;

think about what I have told you ; you are embarrassed now, answer me another time ; and rising, she bid him good night.

She just escaped a trap : he went next day to her guardians to inquire more particularly into her affairs, and receiving the same answer, he dropped his suit at once.

The next serious proposal followed soon after ; and this, too, came from one who had succeeded to a large portion of her esteem ; but, applying the same crucible to the love he offered her, she found a like result. He, too, left her, and she rejoiced in another fortunate escape.

She some time after became acquainted with a young gentleman of slender fortune, in whose approaches she thought she discovered more of the timorous diffidence of love than she had witnessed before. She did not check him in his hopes ; and in process of time, he too made her an offer. But when she spoke of her fortune, he begged her to be silent : It is to virtue, worth, and beauty, said he, that I pay my court, not to fortune. In you I shall obtain what is of more worth than gold. She was agreeably disappointed. They were married ; and after the union was solemnized, she made him master of her fortune with herself. I am indeed worth eighteen hundred dollars, said she to him, but I have never said how much more ; and I never hope to enjoy more pleasure than I feel this moment, when I tell you my fortune is one hundred and eighty thousand.

It was actually so ; but still her husband often tells her that in her he possesses a far more noble fortune.

MR. AND MRS. BRIGSTOCK.

Some time ago was married, William Owen Brigstock, Esq. to Miss Webley Parry.

How happy the lot of the fair,
The amorous *stock* to entwine;
His caresses to *parry* with care,
And say, dearest William, I'm thine.

Through life may he pleasantly swim,
And the ocean of happiness gain,
With his vessel in excellent trim,
And a convoy of *Brigs* in his train.

AN IRISH GENTLEMAN.

The wife of an Irish gentleman being suddenly taken ill, the husband ordered a servant to get a horse ready to go to the next town for the doctor. By the time, however, that the horse was ready, and his letter to the doctor written, the lady recovered, on which he added the following postscript, and sent off the messenger:—"My wife being recovered, you need not come."

WIFE OF PHOCION.

The wife of Phocion, a celebrated Athenian general, receiving a visit from a lady who was elegantly adorned with gold and jewels, and her hair with pearls, took occasion to call the attention of her guest to the elegance and costliness of her dress, remarking at the same time, "My ornament is my husband, now for the twentieth year general of the Athenians."

CRAASBECK AND HIS WIFE.

Craasbeck, a Flemish painter, entertaining some doubts as to the affection of his wife, who was a modest and agreeable woman ; and being anxious to ascertain if she really loved him, one day stripped his breast naked, and painted the appearance of a mortal wound on his skin ; his lips and cheeks he painted of a livid colour, and on his palette near him, he placed his knife, painted on the blade with a blood-like colour. When every thing was prepared, he shrieked out, as if he had been that instant killed, and lay still. His wife ran in, saw him in that terrifying condition, and showed so many tokens of unaffected natural passion, and real grief, that he rose up convinced of her affection, dissuaded her from grieving, and freely told her his motive for the whole contrivance, which he would not have violated truth by describing as a very despicable trick.

ZECHARIAH HODGSON AND HIS WIFE.

Zechariah Hodgson was not naturally an ill-natured man. It was want of reflection, more than a corrupt and ungenerous heart, that led him to consider his wife in the light of an inferior being, and to treat her more like a slave than an equal. If he met with any thing abroad to ruffle his temper, his wife was sure to suffer when he came home. His meals were always ill-cooked ; and whatever the poor woman did to please him was sure to have a contrary effect. She bore his ill-humour in silence for a long time ; but finding it to increase, she adopted a method of reproving him for his unreasonable conduct which had the happiest effect.

One day, as Zechariah was going to his daily avocation after breakfast, he purchased a large codfish, and sent it home, with directions to his wife to have it cooked for dinner. As no particular mode of cooking was prescribed, the good woman well knew that whether she boiled it, or fried it, or made it into stew, her husband would scold her when he came home. But she resolved to please him for once, if possible, and therefore cooked portions of it in several different ways. She also, with some little difficulty, procured an amphibious animal from a brook at the back of the house, and put into the pot. In due time her husband came home—some covered dishes were placed on the table, and with a frowning, fault-finding look, the moody man commenced the conversation.

“ Well, wife, did you get the fish I bought ? ”

“ Yes, my dear.”

“ I should like to know how you have cooked it—I will bet any thing that you have spoiled it for my eating. (Taking off the cover.) I thought so. Why in the world did you fry it? I would as lief eat a boiled frog.”

“ Why my dear, I thought you loved it best fried.”

“ You did not think any such thing. You knew better. I never loved fried fish—why didn’t you boil it ? ”

“ My dear, the last time we had fresh fish, you know I boiled it, and you said you liked it better fried. I did it merely to please you ; but I have boiled some also.” So saying, she lifted a cover, and lo ! the shoulders of the cod, nicely boiled, were neatly deposited on a dish ; a sight which would

have made an epicure rejoice, but which only now added to the ill-nature of her husband.

“A pretty dish, this!” exclaimed he. “Boiled fish! Chips and porridge. If you had not been one of the most stupid of woman-kind, you would have made it into a stew.”

His patient wife, with a smile, immediately placed a tureen before him, containing an excellent stew.

“My dear,” said she, “I was resolved to please you. There is your favourite dish.”

“Favourite dish, indeed,” grumbled the discontented husband; “I dare say it is an unpalatable wishy-washy mess. I would rather have had a boiled frog than the whole of it.”

This was a common expression of his, and had been anticipated by his wife, who, as soon as the preference was expressed, uncovered a large dish at her husband’s right arm, and there was a bull-frog of portentous dimensions, and pugnacious aspect, stretched out at full length! Zechariah sprung from his chair, not a little frightened at the unexpected apparition.

“My dear,” said his wife, in a kind entreating manner, “I hope you will at length be able to make a dinner.”

Zechariah could not stand this. His surly mood was overcome, and he burst into a hearty laugh. He acknowledged his wife was right, declared she should not again have reason to complain of him, and kept to his word.

DOUGLAS AND HIS WIFE.

A newspaper of the year 1777 gives the following as an extract of a letter from Lanark :—“Old Wil-

liam Douglas and his wife are lately dead ; you know that he and his wife were born on the same day, within the same hour, by the same widwife ; christened at the same time, and at the same church ; that they were constant companions, till nature inspired them with love and friendship ; and at the age of nineteen were married, by the consent of their parents, at the church where they were christened. These are not the whole of the circumstances attending this extraordinary pair. They never knew a day's sickness until the day before their deaths ; and the day on which they died were exactly one hundred years old. They died in one bed, and were buried in one grave, close to the font where they were christened. Providence did not bless them with any children."

QUEEN CHARLOTTE.

The queen, on her arrival in England, possessed a very inadequate knowledge of the English language ; but, in the course of a few years, her majesty, under the tuition of the learned Mr. Majendie, was enabled not only to pronounce, but to write, English with a considerable degree of elegance and precision. As a proof of this, we lay before our readers the following copy of verses, which was handed about in 1765, as the production of her majesty.

Genteel is my Damon, engaging his air,
His face, like the morn, is both ruddy and fair ;
Soft love sits enthron'd in the beam of his eyes,
He's manly yet tender, he's fond and yet wise.

He's ever good humour'd, he's gen'rous and gay,
His presence can always drive sorrow away ;
No vanity sways him, no folly is seen,
But open his temper, and noble his mien.

By virtue illumin'd his actions appear,
His passions are calm, and his reason is clear ;
An affable sweetness attends on his speech,
He's willing to learn, though he's able to teach.

He has promis'd to love me—his word I'll believe,
For his heart is too honest to let him deceive ;
Then blame me, ye fair ones, if justly ye can,
Since the picture I've drawn is exactly the man.

GENERAL PIKE AND HIS WIFE.

The following is a correct copy of the last letter of General Pike. It was handed to Major Frazer on the evening previous to his fall, with this injunction, "Should I fall and you survive, hand this yourself to Mrs. Pike." As it breathes a spirit of patriotism and affection worthy of the departed hero, we have thought it worthy of preservation:—

"My dear Clara,—We are now standing on and off the harbour of York, which we shall attack at daylight in the morning : I shall dedicate these last moments to you, my love, and to-morrow throw all other ideas but my country to the winds. As yet I know not if General Dearborn lands : he has acted honourably so far, and I feel great gratitude to the old gentleman ; my sword and my pen shall both be exercised to do him honour. I have no new injunction, no new charge to give you, nor one new idea to communicate ; yet we love to commune with those we love, more especially when we conceive it may be the last time in this world. Should I fall, defend my memory ; and only believe, had I lived, I would have aspired to deeds worthy of your husband. Remember me, with a father's love—a father's care, to our dear daughter ; and believe me to

be, with the warmest sentiments of love and friendship, your

“MONTGOMERY.”*

A TACITURN PAIR.

An individual, not abundantly gifted with that amenity which is as necessary for self-comfort as it is pleasing to others in the perpetual intercourse of social life, fancied that he had justifiable cause for long-continued unbroken taciturnity. His wife, after sitting for some time in the same room with him in annoying and gloomy silence, suddenly started up, and taking a lighted candle, commenced a busy and seemingly anxious search after some missing object of deep and overpowering interest; looked over the mantel-piece and removed all its ornaments, opened every drawer and closet in the room, searched under all the chairs, lifted up the rug, turned up the edge of the carpet, raked in the ashes, ransacked the tea-tackle, rummaged the cellaret, and repeatedly scrutinized the same places over and over again.

At length, fidgetted beyond endurance, his nerves wound up to such a pitch of curiosity as to be on the point of cracking, his impatience absolutely boiled over; and at last, after many severe struggles to maintain his dignified taciturnity, and positively unable to hold out any longer, he relieved himself by giving vent to the exclamation, “My dear, what are you searching after? what have you lost?”

“My dear, I was seeking for your tongue, which has been missing this fortnight; and, if you had not

* It appears that this was the signature the General used when addressing his wife; it will be recollected that his name was “Zebulon Montgomery Pike.”

found it for me now, I should have supposed it to be irretrievably mislaid."

LADY FANSHAWE.

The following anecdote of the conjugal affection of this excellent woman to her husband, Sir Richard, clerk of the council to Charles I. and II., and translator of the Pastor Fido, is extracted from some manuscript memoirs of her, addressed to her son. The transaction took place in a voyage that Lady Fanshawe made from Galway to Malaga, in the spring of the year 1649 :—

We pursued our voyage with prosperous winds, but a most tempestuous master, a Dutchman; truly, I think, the greatest beast I ever saw of his kind. When we had just passed the Straits, we saw coming towards us, with full sails, a Turkish galley, well manned, and we believed we should be carried away slaves; for this man had so laden his ship with goods for Spain, that his guns were useless, though the ship carried sixty guns. He called for brandy; and after he had well drunken, and all his men, which were near 200, he called for arms, and cleared the deck as well as he could, resolving to fight rather than lose his ship, which was worth 30,000*l*. This was sad for us passengers; but my husband bid us to be sure to keep in the cabin, and not appear, which would make the Turks think we were a man of war; but if they saw women, they would take us for merchants, and board us. He went upon deck, and took a gun, a bandelier, and sword, expecting the arrival of the Turkish man of war. This captain had locked me up in the cabin: I knocked and called to no purpose, until the cabin-boy came and opened the door,

I, all in tears, desired him to be so good as to give me his thrum-cap and his tarred coat, which he did, and I gave him half-a-crown ; and putting them on, and flinging away my night-clothes, I crept up softly, and stood upon the deck by my husband's side, as free from sickness and fear as of discretion ; but it was the effect of that passion which I could never master. By this time the two vessels were engaged in parley, and so well satisfied with speech and sight of each other's force, that the Turk's man of war tacked about, and we continued our course. But, when your father saw it convenient to retreat, looking upon me, he blessed himself, and snatched me up in his arms, saying, " Oh, that love should make this change !" and though he seemingly chid me, he would laugh at it as often as he remembered that voyage.

A NEW-MARRIED COUPLE.

" You don't love me, I know you do'nt," said a young married lady to her husband. " I give you credit, my dear, for keen penetration," was the consoling reply.

MADAME GODIN.

That hazardous undertaking, as Dr. Robertson has justly termed a voyage down the river Maragnon, to which ambition prompted Orrellana, and to which the love of science led M. Condamine, was undertaken in the year 1769, by Madame Godin des Odonais, from conjugal affection. The narrative of the hardships which she suffered, and of the dangers to which she was exposed, is a singular and affecting

story, exhibiting in her conduct a striking picture of the fortitude which distinguishes one sex, mingled with the sensibility and tenderness of the other.

On the 1st of October, 1769, Madame Godin departed from Riobamba, the place of her residence, for Laguna, on her way to France to join her husband, accompanied by her brothers ; Sieur R., a physician, and his servant, his faithful negro, and three female Indian domestics ; together with an escort of thirty-one Indians, to carry herself and her baggage, the road being impassable even for mules. Scarcely had Madame Godin reached Canclos, when the Indians deserted her ; but she still determined to brave every danger. There remained only two Indians in the village who had escaped the small-pox, which lately raged there. They had no canoe, but they offered to construct one, and to conduct her to the mission of Andoas, about twelve days journey lower on the river Bobanaza, a distance of about one hundred and fifty leagues. Madame G. paid them in advance ; and the canoe being finished, the party quitted Canclos. Having sailed two days, they stopped to pass the night on shore. Next morning the two Indians disappeared. They were now not only obliged to proceed without a pilot, but the canoe began to leak, which obliged them to land, and erect a temporary hut, within five or six days journey from Andoas, to which place Sieur R. proceeded with his servant, assuring Madame Godin and her brothers, that in less than fifteen days they should have a canoe and Indians. After waiting twenty-five days in the utmost anxiety, and losing all hope of relief from that quarter, they made a raft, upon which they placed all their provisions and effects, and proceeded slowly down the river ; but the raft striking against

a tree, the whole party were plunged into the river ; happily, however, no one perished. They now resolved to pursue the banks of the river on foot. What an enterprise ! The borders of this river are covered with a wood, rendered impervious to the rays of the sun by the herbs, brambles, and shrubs, that creep up the trunks, and blended with the branches of the trees. Taking all their provisions, they commenced their melancholy journey ; but observing that following the course of the river considerably lengthened their route, they entered into the wood, and in a few days lost their way. Though now destitute of provisions, oppressed with thirst, and their feet sorely wounded with briars and thorns, they continued to push forward through immeasurable wilds and gloomy forests, drawing refreshment from the berries and wild fruits they were able to collect. At length, exhausted by hunger and fatigue, their strength failed them, and they sunk, helpless and forlorn. Here they waited impatiently for death to relieve them from their misery. In four days they all successively expired, except Madame Godin, who continued stretched beside her two brothers, and the corpses of her companions, for forty-eight hours, deprived of the use of all her faculties. At last Providence gave her strength and courage to quit the melancholy scene, and attempt to pursue her journey. She was now without stockings, bare-footed, and almost naked : two cloaks, which had been torn to rags by the briars, afforded her but a scanty covering. Having cut off the soles of her brother's shoes, she fastened them to her feet, and took her lonely way. The second day of her journey she found water ; and the day following, some wild fruit and green eggs ; but so much was her throat con-

tracted by the privation of nutriment, that she could hardly swallow such a sufficiency of the sustenance which chance presented to her, as would support her emaciated frame. On the ninth day she reached the borders of Bobanaza, where she fortunately met two Indians, who conveyed her in a canoe to Andoas ; thence she proceeded to Laguna, and there procured a passage for France ; where she at last arrived in safety, and found, in the approving smiles of that husband for whom she had undertaken so dangerous an enterprise, an ample consolation for all the toils and hardships she had undergone.

FREDERICK OF PRUSSIA.

As an instance of conjugal love, and of popular loyalty, we may record the following from "Bright's Travels in Hungary," where, in speaking of the Prussian Monarch, he says, "Frederick married when very young, and a long course of years had cemented their affection, when her unexpected death threatened to break the bond. The king's sorrow was attended by the sympathy of his people. It was not the edict of the court, but individual and sincere feeling, which filled Berlin with mourners. The King and the whole family followed her on foot to the grave. A mausoleum of his own design was erected at his favourite garden of Charlottenburg, whither his wife's remains were conveyed. Here, on certain days, the public are allowed to enter ; and though, when I saw it, three years had elapsed since the Queen's death, many still continued to visit the spot with reverence and affection. Early on each anniversary, the King, and his eleven children, attended by a single priest, repair to this

sanctuary ; and descending into the tomb, each places a garland on the coffin ; when having addressed the Almighty in prayer, the king retires to the island of Paon, near Potsdam, and passes the remainder of the day in perfect solitude."

M. PORTALI.

Rose, the confidential secretary of Louis XIV., had married his daughter to M. Portali, president of the parliament. The husband was constantly complaining to him of the temper and disposition of his daughter : " You are right," said Rose, " she is an impertinent jade ; and if I hear more complaints of her, I will disinherit her." The husband felt no desire to make any more complaints of his wife.

JOHN THATCHER.

Tradition has preserved a singular anecdote of John Thatcher, a son of one of the first settlers in Massachusetts. He was married in 1661 to Rebecca Winslow, and being on his way to Yarmouth, with his bride, they stopped for the night at the house of one Col. Gorham, at Barnstable. In the merry conversation with the newly married couple, an infant was introduced, about three weeks old, and the night of her birth was mentioned to Mr. Thatcher : he observed, it was on the very night when he was married ; and, taking the child in his arms, presented it to his bride, saying, " Here, my dear, is a little lady, born on the same night we were married ; I wish you would kiss her, for I intend to have her for my second wife." " I will,

my dear," she replied, "to please you, but I hope it will be long before your intention is fulfilled." Then, taking the babe, she kissed it heartily, and gave it into the nurse's hands. This jesting prediction was eventually verified. Mr. Thatcher's wife died, and the child, arriving at mature age, actually became his second wife, in 1684.

LORD AND LADY RUSSELL.

If we were to select an example of the most perfect fortitude and constancy under oppression and suffering, it would be from the "Life of Lord Russell," published by his noble descendant, Lord John. The length of the article, however, only admits of a few brief extracts. It appears that Lord Cavendish having sent him a proposition, by Sir James Forbes, to change clothes with him, and to remain in prison whilst he should make his escape, Lord Russell, in a smiling way, sent his thanks to him, but said he would make no escape : prompted, as Lord John supposes, by the reflection that flight would look like a confession of guilt, might prejudice his associates, and also injure the great cause to which his whole life had been devoted. He afterwards said, he was very glad that he had not fled ; because he could not have lived from his children, from his wife, and friends, to live with whom had been all the happiness he ever saw in life. Indeed, his love for Lady Russell was such, that when he spoke of her the tears would come into his eyes, and he would suddenly change the discourse. Her ladyship was, at the moment, very active in her endeavours to save him : but he said that he wished she would give over beating every bush for his preserva-

tion ; nor did he acquiesce in those attempts, except upon the principle, that in permitting them, it would be some mitigation of her future sorrow to reflect that she had left nothing undone for him. But he expressed great joy in the magnanimity of spirit that he saw in her ; and observed, that the parting with her was the greatest thing that he had to do, for he was afraid she would hardly be able to bear it. His cheerfulness almost amounted to mirth, between the sentence and execution. When Rich, one of the sheriffs, and a man who had then recently changed sides to the Catholic party, but had actually voted for the Exclusion Bill, came to acquaint him with the warrant for his fate, he received him without even a hint at the change : he afterwards observed, however, to Bishop Burnet, that if it had not been indecent to be merry in such circumstances, he would have told Rich that they two should never sit together again to vote for that bill.

On the day previous to his execution he had bled at the nose, on which he said, " I shall not now let blood to divert this ; that will be done to-morrow ;" and when it rained hard that night, he observed, " Such a rain to-morrow will spoil a great show, which is a dull thing on a rainy day !"

Before his wife left him, he took her by the hand, and said, " This flesh you now feel in a few hours must be cold." At ten o'clock she left him. He kissed her four or five times ; and she so governed her sorrow as not to add, by the sight of her distress, to the pain of separation. Thus they parted, not with sobs and tears, but with a composed silence ; the wife wishing to spare the feelings of the husband, and the husband those of his wife, they both restrained the expression of a grief too great to be relieved by ut-

terance. When she was gone, he said, " Now the bitterness of death is past."

A SWEDISH COUPLE.

Acerbi, in his " Travels through Sweden, Finland, and Lapland, to the North Cape," relates the following singular anecdote :—

A gentleman of Uleaborg, a town of Bothnia, in Sweden, went from thence by sea to Stockholm : on his return, the ship's steward, in cleaning the plate after dinner, let fall into the sea a silver spoon, which, as it afterwards appeared, was swallowed by a salmon. The day after, this very salmon made his way up the river, near Uleaborg, and was caught by a fisherman.

The fisherman sold the spoon to a silversmith, who, on recognising the cypher, immediately conveyed it to the gentleman's wife. The lady, who had not received any intelligence from her husband since his departure from Uleaborg, was struck with the belief that he had been shipwrecked ; and this seemed the more probable, as his return had been delayed by contrary winds.

The gentleman at last consoled his afflicted wife by his re-appearance, and amused her with a recital of the mode in which the silver spoon had been lost.

LORD SHAFTESBURY.

The celebrated Lord Shaftesbury, after his marriage, having received the usual compliments, very seriously declared to one of his friends that, he verily believed he was *fully as happy as before*.

This was thought but cold language in a man so newly married ; but his lordship intimated, that in his opinion it was a very unreasonable thing in his friends to expect warmer declarations from him on the occasion : he had ventured upon marriage, and he had not been rendered unhappy by it ; and he thought that to affirm this was saying much in favour both of his wife and of matrimony.

A SCOTTISH WIFE.

During a very heavy fall of snow in the winter of 1784, two gentlemen rode on horseback from Berwick to Kelso, regardless of the remonstrances of many, who insisted that the roads were impassable : and, in truth, it was an act of hardihood and folly, as the congealed flakes were drifted by the blast, and beat violently against their eyes and teeth. At every step the jaded animals were more than knee-deep, and may be rather said to have plunged onward than otherwise. When they arrived, with much difficulty, at a lonely alehouse, near Tweezle, on the river Till, they found an inhabitant of Kelso, who had been detained in this thatched hovel two days by the inclement season : he sat, in a contracted state, inclining over the embers on the hearth, like the personification of the ague. When he recognised them, his features assumed their wonted firmness, and, gathering intrepidity from example, he resolved to accompany them, although the roads and ditches were so filled up that the vast face of the country seemed an unbroken white expanse. On their arrival in the middle of a heath, which they did not accomplish until the insidious approaches of night, they faintly discovered a female

form wading and floundering irregularly towards them, in the trackless snow : her attire was so loose, and involved so much of the simplicity of a villager, that she appeared as if habited merely to pass from one neighbour's house to another. Viewing her through the misty atmosphere, they hesitated to pronounce her as human ; the contour of her body was so softened by the intermediate vapours, that she seemed aërial. On their coming nearer, they ascertained her, with extreme astonishment, to be the wife of their companion : she had been wandering, in a spirit of desperation, thirteen miles from her home and her infants, in that bleak day, to find the remains of her beloved Willy ; believing him, from his unusual and alarming absence, to have perished in the hard weather. Upon the instantaneous assurance that she beheld her husband once more, she issued a loud and piercing shriek, and sank motionless in the snow. When they had chafed her temples, and imperfectly recovered her, she clasped her hands, in all the fervour of piety, and raising her eyes to heaven, blessed her God for her deliverance from trouble ; and a more genuine thanksgiving never ascended the empyrean ! At the conclusion of her prayer, they placed the shivering amiable woman on the ablest horse, and conveyed her to Coldstream, overpowered by the sensations of an excessive joy, succeeding the conflicts of severe duty and agonizing woe ! What an inspiring instance of conjugal tenderness !—Could Cornelia or Portia have done more ?

DR. WEBSTER.

The history of Dr. Webster's marriage is romantic. When a young and unknown man, he was employed

by a friend to act as a go-between, or, as it is termed in Scotland, black-fit, or black-foot, in a correspondence which he was carrying on with a young lady of great beauty and accomplishment. Webster had not acted long in that character, before the young lady, who had never entertained any affection for his constituent, fell deeply in love with himself. Her birth and expectations were better than his; and, however much he might have been disposed to address her on his own behalf, he never could have thought of such a thing, so long as there was such a difference between their circumstances. The lady saw his difficulty, and resolved to overcome it, although at the expense of her own delicacy. At one of their interviews, when he was exerting all his eloquence in favour of his friend, she plainly told him that he would probably meet far better speed if he were to speak for himself. He took the hint, and was soon after married to her. He wrote upon the occasion an amorous lyric, which exhibits in warm colours the gratitude of a humble lover for the favour of a mistress of superior station; and which is perhaps as excellent altogether, in its way, as the finest compositions of the kind produced in either ancient or modern times.

As may be easily supposed, Mrs. Webster was not by any means disposed, like the rest of the world, to regard her husband's convivial propensities with indulgence. On the contrary, she endeavoured, by all possible means, to prevent him from remaining abroad too late at night; never permitting him to get home on any of these occasions without questioning him very closely as to the where, the where-withal, and the wherefore, he had been thus besotting himself. It is well known, that if wives *will*

ask impertinent questions of that kind, husbands *will* endeavour to avoid the wrath which they know must fall upon them in case of their divulging the truth. It was a frequent custom with the Doctor to answer that he had "just been down calling on Dr. Erskine, (a brother clergyman,) and the Doctor had insisted upon his staying to supper." Dr. Erskine, who was a clergyman of great worth, but withal not averse to a joke, happened eventually to learn that his friend Webster was in the habit of making him his stalking-horse in this manner; and he resolved to expose the defaulter in a good-humoured way to his much-deceived wife. One night, therefore, when Dr. Webster was actually in his house, in an accidental way he made an excuse to retire, and leaving Webster to sup with Mrs. Erskine, went up to the Castle-hill to call on Mrs. Webster. Dropping in, as if nothing unusual was in the wind, he consented to remain with Mrs. Webster to supper; and thus the two clergymen mutually supped with each other's wife, and in each other's house, neither of the said wives being aware of the fact, and Webster equally ignorant of the plot laid against his character for veracity. Long before Webster's usual hour for retiring, Dr. Erskine took leave of Mrs. Webster, and returned to his own house, where he found the reverend object of the hoax as yet only as it were pushing off from the shore of sobriety. When his time was come, Webster went home, and being interrogated, as usual, "Why," answered he, now at least speaking the truth, "I've just been down at Dr. Erskine's." Let the reader conceive the torrent of indignant reproof, which, after having been restrained on a thousand occasions when it was deserved, at length burst forth upon the head

of the unfortunate, and for once innocent, Doctor. The violence and copiousness of the torrent was such, that for some time the intellects of its devoted object were fairly swept away and buried beneath the inundation. When it had at length subsided, and left some points of dry land above the flood, the Doctor discovered the hoax which had been played off upon him ; and the whole affair was explained satisfactorily to both parties next day by Dr. Erskine's confession. But Mrs. Webster declared, that, from that time forth, for the security of both parties from such deceptions, she conceived it would be well, when Dr. Webster happened to be supping with Dr. Erskine, that he should bring home with him a written affidavit, under the hand of the said Dr. Erskine, testifying the fact.

Can the wife, asks Mrs. Stickney, ever request counsel again from the husband of her choice, after she has detected him in the first falsehood ? Can the husband ever look again with perfect satisfaction upon the countenance of his wife, after the first falsehood has polluted her lips ? Alas ! no ! a barrier has been broken down, and the waves of sin and sorrow roll in upon their paradise of domestic enjoyment.

SECTION II.—PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

SINGULAR FAMILIES.

In the reign of William the Third, there lived at Ipswich, in Suffolk, a family which, from the number of peculiarities belonging to it, was distinguished by the name of the *Odd Family*. Every event, remarkably good or bad, happened to this family on an odd day of the month, and every one of them had something odd in his or her person, manner, and behaviour; the very letters in their Christian names always happened to be an odd number. The husband's name was Peter, and the wife's Rabah; they had children, all boys, viz., Solomon, Roger, James, Matthew, Jonas, David, and Ezekiel. The husband had but one leg, his wife but one arm. Solomon was born blind of the left eye, and Roger lost his right eye by accident; James had his left ear pulled off by a boy in a quarrel, and Matthew was born with only three fingers on his right hand; Jonas had a stump foot, and David was hump-backed: all these, except David, were remarkably short, while Ezekiel was six feet two inches high at the age of nineteen; the stump-footed Jonas and the hump-backed David got wives of fortune, but no girl would listen to the addresses of the rest. The husband's hair was as black as jet, and the wife's remarkably white, yet every one of the children's was red. The husband had the peculiar misfortune of falling into a deep saw-pit, where he was starved to death in the year 1701, and his wife, refusing all kinds of sustenance, died in five days after him. In the year 1703, Ezekiel

enlisted as a grenadier, and although he was afterwards wounded in twenty-three places, he recovered. Roger, James, Matthew, Jonas, and David, died at different places on the same day in 1713, and Solomon and Ezekiel were drowned together in crossing the Thames, in the year 1723.

There was a lady of a noble family, who saw of her own race even to the sixth degree : whereof the Germans made a distich, thus translated by Hakwell :—

The aged mother to her daughter spake,
“ Daughter,” said she, “ arise ;
Thy daughter to her daughter take,
Whose daughter’s daughter cries.”

GEORGE III. AND LOUIS.

It is not beneath a king to take a peep into the nursery to see how the little ones thrive, and to suggest hints for their cultivation. It was said of George III. that he made a practice, the first thing in the morning, of going into the nursery to see his children, to receive their smiles, to give his blessing, to investigate their health and comfort, and to suggest improvement. It was said, also, of one of the Louis’s of France, that a foreigner of distinction was suddenly introduced to him when he was romping with his children ; he was on all fours, with one of his children upon his back, going round the room. He turned round to the gentleman, and said, “ Are you a father ? ” “ Yes,” said the stranger : “ Then here goes ; gee up ! ” and finished his game of horse and rider. Who can see any thing in these instances

derogatory to royalty? The conduct was amiable, parental, noble; though not, perhaps, agreeable to the high notions of some, who think it a much nobler and more suitable employment for noblemen and gentlemen to superintend a stud of horses, or a kennel of hounds.

A FRENCH KING.

A French princess, Jean of Albert, who lived in the sixteenth century, having requested to accompany her husband in the wars in Picardy, the French king, her father, laid his commands upon her to come home, should she require to be delivered of an infant, with the view that it might be nursed in a more hardy manner than was usually the case with the children of royal parents. At length the contingency arrived; and the princess, with difficulty, after great fatigue in the journey, appeared at her father's residence. It was part of the character of Jean of Albert to have a vast deal of curiosity, and she now was exceedingly desirous to see her father's will, which was kept in a large gold box, along with a gold chain of such length as to go twenty-five or thirty times about a woman's neck. She therefore asked for a sight of these things; but the King strenuously refused, declaring, however, that both should be exhibited and given to her, should she safely bring into the world a prince. On the night of the 13th of December, 1553, the princess was delivered of a son, greatly to the delight of the King, who now put the gold chain about her neck, and gave her the gold box, in which was his will; saying to her when he did so, "There, girl, that is thine, but this belongs to me;" and so he took up the babe in his gown,

without staying till it was dressed, and carried it away to his apartment. The little prince was fed and brought up so as to be inured to fatigue and hardship, frequently eating nothing but the coarsest common bread, the King, his grandfather, having given such orders. He used, according to the custom of the country, to run about, bareheaded and barefooted, with the village boys, both in summer and winter. Who was this prince? Henri Quatre, the famous Henry IV.

RACINE.

A messenger arrived one day, and informed Racine that he must that day dine with his prince ; to which the affectionate father replied, " I cannot have that honour. It is seven days since I have seen my children ; they are rejoiced at my return ; I must dine with them ; they will break their hearts to lose me the moment I am returned. Pray be so kind as to mention my excuse to his highness."

COUNT DE GRAMMONT.

The Count de Grammont had two daughters ; one fat, and the other lean. The countess, his wife, begged him to write to them, and pressed him so much, that, yielding to her importunity, he took the pen, and wrote to the first, " My daughter, get lean ;" and to the other daughter, " My daughter, get fat ;" and no more. The countess, seeing him seal his letters, was surprised that he had so soon done ; but the count said, " They have only to follow the advice I now send them to do well."

A FATHER AT LYONS.

A French writer relates the following remarkable instance of the punishment of ingratitude in children :—

An eminent trader at Lyons, who had acquired an easy fortune, had two handsome daughters, between whom, on their marriage, he divided all his property, on condition that he should pass the summer with the one, and the winter with the other. Before the end of the first year, he found sufficient ground to conclude that he was not a very acceptable guest to either; of which, however, he took no notice, but hired a handsome lodging, in which he resided a few weeks. He then applied to a friend, and told him the truth of the matter, desiring the gift of two hundred livres, and the loan of fifty thousand in ready money, for a few hours. His friend very readily complied with this request; and the next day the old gentleman made a splendid entertainment, to which his daughters and their husbands were invited. Just as dinner was over, his friend came in a great hurry, told him of an unexpected demand upon him, and desired to know whether he could lend him fifty thousand livres. The old man told him, without any emotion, that twice as much was at his service, if he had wanted it; and going into the next room, brought him the money.

After this he was not suffered to stay any longer in lodgings: his daughters were jealous if he remained a day more in one house than the other; and after three or four years spent with them, he died; when, upon examining his cabinet, instead of riches there was found a note containing these words: "He who has suffered by his virtue has a right to avail

himself of the vices of those by whom he has been injured; and a father ought never to be so fond of his children as to forget what is due to himself."

STRONGBOW AND HIS SON.

When Strongbow was marching to Wexford, through the barony of Idrone, to relieve Fitzstephen, he was briskly assaulted by O'Rian and his followers; but O'Rian being slain by an arrow, shot at him by Nichol the monk, the rest were easily scattered, and many of them slain. It was here that Strongbow's only son, a youth about seventeen years old, frightened at the numbers and ululations of the Irish, ran away from the battle, and made towards Dublin; but being informed of his father's victory, he joyfully came back to congratulate him: the severe general, however, having first reproached him with cowardice, caused him to be immediately executed, by cutting him off in the middle with a sword. So great an abhorrence had they of dastardliness in those days, that, in imitation of the old Romans, they punished it with a severity which was awfully unnatural in a father.

AN INDIAN EMPEROR.

A young man laid before Shah Jehan, an emperor of India, in the seventeenth century, a complaint, that his mother, a Banian, was possessed of immense wealth, amounting to two hundred thousand rupees; who yet, on account of alleged ill conduct, withheld from him any share. The emperor, tempted by hearing of so large a fortune, sent for the lady, and commanded her, in the presence of a large assem-

bly, to give to her son fifty thousand rupees, and to pay to himself a hundred thousand; at the same time desiring her to withdraw. The woman, however, by loud clamour, again procured admittance; and coolly said, "May it please your majesty, my son has certainly some claim to the goods of his father; but I would gladly know what relation your majesty bears to the merchant, my deceased husband, that you make yourself his heir?" This idea appeared to Shah Jehan so droll, that he desired her to depart, and assured her that no exaction should be made.

DON JUAN, OF PORTUGAL.

Alphonso, King of Portugal, made a journey to France, in order to solicit succour for the support of his niece Johanna's claims to Castile. From the cold treatment he met with at the court of Louis XI., he could entertain no hopes of success; and was even apprehensive of being delivered up to Ferdinand, the reigning king of Castile. To divert the prosecution of any bad design against him, he gave out, that he intended to renounce the world, and spend the remainder of his days in the exercise of penitential devotion: he also wrote an eternal adieu to Don Juan, his son, ordering him to cause himself to be proclaimed King without the loss of a moment. After having despatched his letter of resignation, he privately withdrew, and it was reported that he had crossed the seas on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem; but, in consequence of a strict search after him, he was discovered in a village near Harfleur. As the interest of Louis now required him to protect Alphonso, to play him off against

Ferdinand and Isabella, (then negotiating with Maximilian, who, having married the heiress of Burgundy, was become master of the Netherlands,) he advised him to return to his own dominions, and commanded the Prince of Normandy to furnish requisites for the voyage. Don Juan, in the mean time, pursuant to his father's orders, had convened the States of Portugal to settle his coronation, and the ceremony was scarcely over, when he received advice that the King his father was landed.

Every consideration immediately gave way to filial duty; the prince abdicated the throne, laid aside the insignia of royalty, and rushed into his father's arms. Alphonso insisted on his resuming the crown, but he, for the first time, ventured to disobey him, and could not be prevailed on to accept of any other title than that of the most faithful of his subjects.

AN IRISHMAN.

In 1822, when the western part of Ireland was afflicted with grievous famine, and when England nobly stepped forward and poured forth her thousands to save those who were perishing for want, a depôt of provisions was established on the sea-coast, for the relief of the suffering inhabitants of this remote district. A solitary family, who had been driven from their lowland home by the severity of a relentless middleman, had settled themselves in this wild valley, and erected the clay walls of a ruined hut. The man was shepherd to a farmer who kept cattle on these mountains. Here, in this savage retreat, he lived removed from the world, for the nearest cabin to this spot is more than four miles

distant. It may be supposed that the general distress afflicted this insulated family. The welcome news of the arrival of succours at Ballycroy at length reached them, and the herdsman set out to procure some of the committee-meal, to relieve the hunger of this half-starved family. On arriving at the depôt, the stock of meal was nearly expended; however, he obtained a temporary supply, and was comforted with the assurance that a large quantity was hourly expected. Anxious to bring the means of sustenance to his suffering little ones, the herdsman crossed the mountains with his precious burden, and reached a hillock where the stones were loosely piled. But, during his absence at Ballycroy, the rain had fallen heavily on the hills; the river was no longer fordable—a furious torrent of discoloured water rushed from the heights and choked up the narrow channel. There stood the returning parent, within twenty paces of his wretched, but dearly-loved hovel. The children with a cry of delight rushed from the hut to the opposite bank to welcome him; but, terrified by the fearful appearance of the flood, his wife entreated him not to attempt its passage for the present. But, would he, a powerful and experienced swimmer, be deterred? The eager and hungry looks of his expecting family maddened the unhappy father. He threw aside his clothes, bound them with the meal upon his back, crossed himself devoutly, and “in the name of God” committed himself to the swollen river. For a moment he breasted the torrent gallantly—two strokes more would bring him to the bank—when the treacherous load turned, caught him round the neck, swept him down the stream, sank, and drowned him. He struggled hard for life. His wife and children fol-

lowed the unhappy man as he was borne away—and their agonizing shrieks told the poor man that assistance from them was hopeless. At last the body disappeared, and was taken up the following morning, four miles from the fatal place. One curious circumstance attended this calamity: a herd of cattle galloped madly down the river-side at the time their unfortunate keeper was perishing; their bellowsings were heard for miles, and they were discovered next morning grouped around the body of the dead shepherd, in the corner of a sandy cove, where the abated flood had left it.

AN AMERICAN MOTHER.

A lady took a child to a physician in Utica, to consult him about its precious health. Among other things, she inquired if he did not think the springs would be useful.

“Certainly, madam,” replied the doctor, as he looked at the child, and then took a pinch of snuff. “I have not the least hesitation in recommending the springs—and the sooner you apply the remedy, the better.”

“You really think it would be good for the dear little thing, don’t you?”

“Upon my word, it is the best remedy I know of.”

“What springs would you recommend, doctor?”

“Any will do, madam, where you can get plenty of soap and water.”

CHILDREN OF LOUIS XVI.

When the Royal Family of France were arrested in their attempted flight, and were on their return

from Varennes to Paris, the Dauphin having remarked on the buttons of M. Barnave, one of the deputies appointed by the National Assembly to attend the royal prisoners, the device, "To live free, or die," turned to his mother, and said, "Mamma, what does that mean, *to live free?*" "My child," replied the Queen, "it is to go where you please." "Ah, mamma!" rejoined the infant quickly, "then we are not free!"

A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, an English nobleman and his son were with the Queen's army in Ireland, and were engaged in an action with the rebels of that country, in which both lost their lives. Their wives were within sight of the battle, and the remark their death drew from the son's wife to her mother-in-law, was, "Observe, madam, that your husband fell first; therefore, I am entitled to my dowry."

A YOUNG FRENCHMAN.

A shopkeeper, who resided two or three days' journey from Paris, preserved his good conduct and integrity for many years. At last, by some persons taking undue credit, and keeping him too long out of his money, he was obliged to take a journey to Paris, to desire two things of his creditors: the one was a lengthening out their forbearance; and the other was, to be furnished with a fresh assortment of goods, that he might keep open his shop with credit. They were so pleased with the honesty and frankness of the man, that they all agreed to grant his

request, except one ; this was his chief creditor, a proud and haughty merchant, who had never felt any adversity, and knew not how to sympathize with the afflicted. " So," said he, " I find, by your asking for a prolongation of credit, and a further indulgence of goods, that you are going down hill ; and, therefore, I am resolved to have my money." Accordingly, he sent immediately for an officer, who arrested the poor man, and carried him to jail. In this distressing situation he wrote home to his wife, who communicated the news to her six children : they were all overwhelmed in sorrow. What could be done ? To sit still in despair, was the ready way to ruin. After a deliberate conversation with her eldest son, a young man of fine sense, and excellent virtue, about nineteen years of age, he resolved to fly to Paris, with a view to soften this cruel creditor. After a short interview with his father, he went to the house of the merchant, sent in his name, and desired an audience. The cruel and haughty man, thinking he was come to pay him, admitted him into his presence ; but he soon found that his first request was, that he would release his father from jail, to go home and comfort his mother, and keep up the credit of the shop. The merchant, being disappointed in his expectation, flew into a violent passion, and declared he would have the money or the bones of his father. The young man, finding him inexorable, fell down on his knees, and with uplifted hands, and tears rolling down his cheeks, he addressed himself to the merchant in this manner : " Sir," said he, " if I go home without my father, I shall see my mother die with a broken heart, the credit of the shop will be entirely ruined, and we, the poor children, must be turned as vaga-

bonds and beggars into the open street. I have, therefore, this one, this last request to make—let me be sent to jail, in the room of my father, and keep me there, until all demands are satisfied.” The merchant walked backwards and forwards in the room with great emotion. The young man continued his cries and entreaties on his knees. At last the merchant flew to him with great tenderness, and took hold of his hand ; “ Rise, young man,” said he, “ I have but one daughter in the world, for whose happiness I am concerned ; I’ll give thee my daughter—she must be happy with a fellow of thy virtue ; I’ll settle upon you all my fortune ; I’ll release your father out of prison, and make you all happy together.” And he was as good as his word.

TWO BROTHERS IN ROME.

Wraxall states in his memoirs, that Lady Hamilton related to him the following events :—In the year 1743, a gentleman, a native of Ireland, who practised physic in Rome, was waited on by two gentlemen, by whom he was desired to accompany them immediately, as the case which brought them admitted of no delay, and not to omit taking with him his lancets. He complied, and got into the coach ; but no sooner had they quitted the street in which he resided, than they informed him that he must submit to have his eyes bandaged ; the person to whom they were about to conduct him being a lady of rank, whose name and place of abode it was indispensable to conceal. To this requisition he likewise submitted ; and after driving through a number of streets, apparently with a view

to prevent his forming any accurate idea of the part of the city to which he was conducted, the carriage at length stopped. The two gentlemen then alighted, and each taking him by the arm, conducted him into a house ; ascending a narrow stair-case, they entered an apartment, where he was released from the bandage tied over his eyes. One of them then told him, that it being necessary to put out of life a lady who had dishonoured her family, they had chosen him to perform the office, knowing his professional skill ; that he would find her in the adjoining chamber, prepared to submit to her fate ; and that he must open her veins with as much expedition as possible ; a service, for the execution of which he should receive a liberal recompense.

Ogilvie at first peremptorily refused to commit an act so highly repugnant to his feelings. But the two strangers assured him, with solemn denunciations of vengeance, that his refusal could only prove fatal to himself, without affording the slightest assistance to the object of his compassion ; that her doom was irrevocable ; and that unless he chose to participate a similar fate, he must submit to execute the office imposed on him. Thus situated, and finding all entreaty or remonstrance vain, he entered the room, where he found a lady of a most interesting figure and appearance, apparently in the bloom of youth. She was habited in a loose undress ; and immediately afterwards a female attendant placed before her a tub filled with warm water, in which she immersed her legs. Far from opposing any impediment, the lady assured him of her perfect resignation, entreating him to put the sentence into execution with as little delay as possible. She added, that she was well aware that no pardon

could be hoped for from those who had devoted her to death, which alone could expiate her trespass ; felicitating herself that his humanity would abbreviate her sufferings.

After a short conflict with his own mind, perceiving no means of extrication or of escape, either for the lady or for himself, being, moreover, urged to expedite his work by the two persons without, who, impatient at his reluctance, threatened to exercise violence on him if he procrastinated, Ogilvie took out his lancet, opened her veins, and bled her to death in a short time. The gentlemen having carefully examined the body, in order to ascertain that she was no more, after expressing their satisfaction, offered him a purse of *zechins* as a remuneration ; but he declined all recompense, only requesting to be conveyed from a scene on which he could not reflect without horror. With this entreaty they complied, and having again applied a bandage to his eyes, they led him down the same staircase to the carriage. But it being narrow, in descending the steps, he contrived to leave on one or both of the walls, unperceived by his conductors, the marks of his fingers, which were stained with blood. After observing precautions similar to those used in bringing him thither from his own house, he was conducted home ; and at parting, the two masks charged him, as he valued his life, never to divulge, and, if possible, never to think on the past transaction. They added, that if he should set on foot an inquiry into it, he should be infallibly immolated to their revenge. Having finally dismissed him at his own door, they drove off, leaving him to his reflections.

On the subsequent morning, after great irresolution, he determined, at whatever risk to his personal

safety, not to participate, by concealing so enormous a crime. It formed, nevertheless, a delicate and difficult undertaking to substantiate the charge, as he remained altogether ignorant of the place to which he had been carried, or of the name and quality of the lady whom he had deprived of life. Without suffering himself, however, to be deterred by these considerations, he waited on the Secretary of the Apostolic Chamber, and acquainted him with every particular ; adding, that if the government would extend to him protection, he did not despair of finding the house, and of bringing to light the perpetrators of the deed. Benedict the Fourteenth, (Lambertini,) who then occupied the papal chair, had no sooner received the information, than he immediately commenced the most active measures for discovering the offenders. A guard of the Sbirri, or Officers of Justice, was appointed by his order to accompany Ogilvie ; who, judging from various circumstances that he had been conveyed out of the city of Rome, began by visiting the villas scattered without the walls of that metropolis. His search proved ultimately successful. In the villa Papa Julio, constructed by Pope Julius the Third, he found the bloody marks left on the wall by his fingers, at the same time that he recognised the apartment in which he had put to death the lady. The palace belonged to the Duke de Bracciano, the chief of which illustrious family, and his brother, had committed the murder, in the person of their own sister ! They no sooner found that it was discovered than they fled, and easily eluded the pursuit of justice. After remaining for some time, they obtained a pardon, by the exertions of their powerful friends, on payment of a considerable fine to the

Apostolic Chamber, and under the further condition of affixing over the chimney-piece of the room where the crime had been perpetrated, a plate of copper, commemorating the transaction, and their penitence. The plate, together with the inscription, continued to exist there till within these few years.

A PRUSSIAN DAUGHTER.

The following beautiful trait of filial affection is detailed by Dr. Bright, in his "Travels through Hungary," as having taken place at the Prussian capital. He says:—"When I was at Berlin during the preceding year, I followed the celebrated Iffland to the grave. Mingled with some pomp, you might trace much real feeling. In the midst of the ceremony my attention was attracted by a young woman, who stood near a mound of earth, nearly covered with turf, which she anxiously protected from the feet of the pressing crowd. It was the tomb of her parent: and the figure of this affectionate daughter presented a monument more striking than the most costly works of art." He adds: "There were in this burial-ground many tributes, paid by those who loved rather to court, than to shun the objects of their affection."

TWO DAUGHTERS IN FRANCE.

During the reign of terror in France, a family at Marseilles became involved in the revolutionary troubles. The eldest son fell under proscription; but his family were fortunate enough to avoid the vigilance of the police, and conceal him for seven months, at the end of which time he escaped in a

vessel to Leghorn. The youngest son saved himself by escaping to Paris, where he remained unknown, until the death of Robespierre enabled him to return home.

Very soon after the departure of the eldest son, the father was menaced with imprisonment, as having two sons in emigration ; on which the youngest daughter presented herself before the municipality, entreating that her father might be suffered to remain at liberty, and offering herself as a hostage, that he would not commit any act contrary to the interests of the republic. Her offer of becoming a prisoner was accepted, and she was conveyed to the convent of Ignorantius, which was set apart for confining the women who were arrested, and where eight hundred were then immured. But though she was detained, her father was not left at large ; he was arrested a few days after, and sent with a number of the proscribed to confinement in another convent. The prison of the father was at a different end of the town. During eight months that elapsed from this period to the conclusion of the reign of terror, the eldest daughter's daily occupation was to visit her father and sister in their respective prisons, which she was permitted to do, being always searched at her entrance, lest she should convey any thing to them which might assist their escape. The anxiety for her sister's life was not very great, as few women were led to the scaffold ; but she daily entered the prison of her father, uncertain whether she still might find him, or whether he might not have been among the number who were daily immolated. While at home, her sole occupation was to endeavour to soothe and console her mother. How miserable, how painful, was such a state of existence !

and yet, painful as it was, this family was ultimately among the number of the fortunate, since no member of it fell a victim to revolutionary vengeance.

A YOUNG NOBLEMAN.

At an assembly, a gentleman entered into conversation with a young nobleman who was near him. Being a stranger, he made several inquiries respecting the company, which were answered with great politeness. At length he said, "Who is that fat sow at the other end of the room?" "That, Sir," replied the young nobleman, "that fat sow is the Countess of D——, and I have the honour to be one of her little pigs."

A DEAF, DUMB, AND BLIND AMERICAN GIRL.

The following interesting account appeared in an American paper of the year 1817 :—

I heard a benevolent lady mention the name of Julia Brace, a girl about eleven years old, living in the vicinity of Hartford, who is afflicted with the triple calamity of blindness, deafness, and dumbness, having lost the senses of sight and hearing by the violence of a typhus fever, at the age of four years. On visiting her, I learned the following facts and little anecdotes, which I relate for your amusement.

Her form and features are regular and well-proportioned : her temper is mild and affectionate. She is much attached to her infant sister ; often passes her hand over the mouth and eyes of the child, in order to ascertain whether it is crying, and soothes its little distresses with all the assiduity and success

of a talkative or musical nurse. All objects which she can readily handle she applies to her lips, and rarely fails in determining their character. If any thing is too large for examination in this way, she makes her fingers the interpreters of the texture and properties, and is seldom mistaken. She will beat apples or other fruit off the tree, and select the best with as much judgment as if she possessed the faculty of sight. She often wanders in the field and gathers flowers, to which she is directed by the pleasantness of their odour. Her sense of smelling is remarkably exquisite, and appears to be an assistant guide with her fingers and lips.

A gentleman one day gave her a small fan : she inquired of her lips what it was ; and on being informed, returned it to the gentleman's pocket. The mother observed that Julia already possessed one fan ; she probably thought that another would be superfluous. This gentleman gave the same fan to a neighbouring girl, whom Julia was in the habit of visiting. She went a few days after to visit her companion, whose toys she passed under the review of her fingers and lips, and among other things the fan, the identity of which she instantly discovered, and again restored to the pocket of the gentleman, who happened to be present.

She feels and admires mantel-piece ornaments, and never breaks nor injures the most brittle furniture, even in a strange room.

A gentleman once made several experiments, with a view of satisfying himself whether she really had the discernment which she was reported to possess. Among other arts for effecting his object, he pretended to carry away her infant sister. She immediately detected the cheat, by ascertaining that his

umbrella remained on the table. She then went out of the door, and picked the head of a large thistle, in full bloom, brought it in, smelling it as she came, and offered it to the gentleman, apparently as a nose-gay. He reached out his hand; but, instead of giving it, she archly pricked his hand, by way of retort for his freedom in testing her sagacity.

SONS OF EARL ELGIN.

Lord Kaimes relates a pleasing anecdote of two boys, the sons of the Earl of Elgin, who were permitted by their father to associate with the poor boys in the neighbourhood. One day, the earl's sons being called to dinner, a lad who was playing with them said that he would wait till they returned. "There is no dinner for me at home," said the poor boy. "Come with us, then," said the earl's sons. The boy refused; and when they asked him if he had any money to buy a dinner, he answered, "No!" When the young gentlemen got home, the eldest of them said to his father, "Papa, what was the price of the silver buckles you gave me?" "Five shillings," was the reply. "Let me have the money, and I'll give you the buckles again." It was done accordingly; and the earl, inquiring privately, found that the money was given to the lad who had no dinner.

ROBERT BRUCE.

This great man, the sayiour of Scottish independence at a most dangerous crisis, was the son of Bruce, Lord of Annandale, by a lady who was Countess of Carrick in her own right. It appears

that the first acquaintance of his parents, and their subsequent marriage, took place through fortuitous circumstances; so that his existence, and consequently the independence of his country, may be said to have depended upon mere accident. The particulars are thus related by Mr. P. F. Tytler, in his work entitled "Scottish Worthies," published as part of Murray's Family Library :—

"It appears, that a short time after his return from the crusade, Bruce was riding through the beautiful domains of Turnberry Castle, the property of the widowed Countess of Carrick, who, in consequence of the death of her husband, had become a ward of the crown. The noble baron, however, if we may believe an ancient historian, cannot be accused of having visited Turnberry with any view of throwing himself in the way of the Countess of Carrick; and, indeed, any such idea, in those days of jealous wardship, would have been highly dangerous. It happened, however, that the lady herself, whose ardent and impetuous temper was not much in love with the seclusion of a feudal castle, had come out to take the diversion of the chase, accompanied by her women, huntsmen, and falconers; and this gay cavalcade came suddenly upon Bruce, as he pursued his way through the forest alone and unarmed. The knight would have spurred his horse forward, and avoided the encounter, but he found himself surrounded by the attendants; and the countess herself riding up, and, with gentle violence, taking hold of the horse's reins, reproached him in so sweet a tone for his want of gallantry in flying from a lady's castle, that Bruce, enamoured of her beauty, forgot the risk which he run, and suffered himself to be led away in a kind of triumph to Turnberry. He here

remained for fifteen days ; and the adventure concluded, as might have been anticipated, by his privately marrying the youthful countess, without having obtained the concurrence of the King or any of her relations. Alexander III., however, although at first indignant at this bold interference with the rights of the crown, was a benevolent prince ; and, on the payment of a large feudal fine, extended his forgiveness to Bruce. The eldest son of this marriage of sudden and romantic love was Robert Bruce the younger, Earl of Carrick, and afterwards King of Scotland. The second was Edward Bruce, Lord of Galloway, who was crowned King of Ireland in 1316 ; and, besides this regal issue, the Countess of Carrick, who appears to have proved a faithful and affectionate wife, bore her husband three more sons and seven daughters."

A YOUNG POMERANIAN.

Frederick the Great, of Prussia, during his last illness, endured many restless nights, which he endeavoured to soothe by conversing with the servant who sat up with him. On one of these occasions, he inquired of an honest young Pomeranian, from whence he came : " From a little village in Pomerania." " Are your parents living ? " " An aged mother." " How does she maintain herself ? " " By spinning." " How much does she gain daily by it ? " " Sixpence." " But she cannot live well on that ? " " In Pomerania it is cheap living." " Did you never send her any thing ? " " O yes, I have sent her, at different times, a few dollars." " That was bravely done ; you are a good boy. You have a deal of trouble with me. Have patience : I shall endeavour to lay something by for you, if you behave well." The

monarch kept his word : for, a few nights after, the Pomeranian being again in attendance, received several pieces of gold ; and heard, to his great joy and surprise, that one hundred rix dollars had been settled on his mother during her life.

MISS KELSO.

It is recorded that a battle was fought near Newtown Hamilton, in the barony of Fews, county of Armagh, between O'Neil of Ulster, denominated Black Beard, (Fesog Dhu,) and one of the princes of Louth, in which many were slain on both sides, and where O'Neil also fell. The quarrel is said to have originated at a feast given on the spot, by the Prince of Louth setting fire to O'Neil's beard, who did not relish so warm a reception. In later days the neighbourhood of the Fews had been infested by robbers, and three miles from Newtown Hamilton a barrack was built to keep the freebooters in check. Two of their scattered party entered the country house of Mr. Kelso in that place one evening, knowing that he and his lady had gone to dine at a friend's, and that the men-servants were absent. The robbers easily secured the two female domestics, and proceeded to the parlour, where Miss Kelso was alone, a girl about eleven years old ; they ordered her, on pain of death, to show them where the plate and money were kept, and she led them to a closet which contained all the valuables. While they were ransacking the presses, she silently left the room and shut the door, which had a spring-lock ; and as there was but one small window, secured by iron bars, she felt certain that the robbers could not possibly escape : meanwhile Miss Kelso went to the kitchen,

and released the servant-women, who were tied hand and foot ; and, with their assistance, collected straw, dry sticks, and whatever combustibles were about the place, and, making a heap of these, lighted them on an eminence which would be seen from the house where her parents were. The plan succeeded ; the blaze soon attracted observation ; and Mr. Kelso returned as soon as possible, with all the assistance he could assemble, to extinguish the supposed fire in his house. On his arrival he was agreeably surprised to learn how matters stood, and seized the robbers without difficulty.

PUPIL OF ZENO.

A youth, named Eretius, was, for a considerable time, a follower of Zeno. On his return home, his father asked him what he had learned ? The boy replied, that would appear hereafter. On this the father, being enraged, beat his son ; who, bearing it patiently and without complaining, said, “ This have I learned, to endure a parent’s anger.”

A DEVOTED DAUGHTER.

Valerius Maximus relates, that a woman of distinction having been condemned to be strangled, was delivered to the triumvir, who caused her to be carried to prison in order to be put to death. The gaoler who was ordered to execute her was struck with compunction, and could not resolve to kill her. He chose, however, to let her die with hunger ; but meanwhile suffered her daughter to visit her in prison, taking care that she brought her nothing to eat. Many days passed over in this manner, when the

gaoler, at length, surprised that the prisoner lived so long without food, and suspecting the daughter, took means of secretly observing their interviews. He then discovered that the affectionate daughter had all the while been nourishing her mother with her own milk. Amazed at so tender, and at the same time so ingenious an artifice, he related it to the triumvir, and the triumvir to the prætor, who thought the fact merited stating in the assembly of the people. This produced the happiest effects; the criminal was pardoned, and a decree passed that the mother and the daughter should be maintained, for the remainder of their lives, at the expense of the public; and that a temple, sacred to filial piety, should be erected near the prison.

TWO CHINESE YOUTHS.

The Chinese are remarkable for the extraordinary respect which they pay to their parents. If it even be true, as some writers assert, that with these people filial reverence is not so much a moral feeling as a precept which, in the course of time, has acquired all the force of a positive law, and that filial piety exists rather in the maxims of the government than in the hearts of the subjects, still it wears an appearance of a virtue that demands admiration. The Chinese writers have carefully recorded a great number of remarkable instances of filial piety.

A boy, eight years of age, gave a very affecting proof of affection for his parents. They were so poor that they could not afford to procure a kind of curtain, which is commonly used in the hot countries of the east to defend persons in bed from troublesome insects, called mosquitoes, and which is

thence named a mosquito-curtain. The poor boy strove, in various ways, to protect his parents from the painful bites of these insects, but in vain. At length he hit upon a contrivance, which shows that no sacrifice is too great for real affection. When his parents had retired to rest, he seated himself by their bed, stripped off his clothes to the waist, and suffered the mosquitoes to settle upon him without driving them away. "When they have filled themselves with my blood," said he, "they will not disturb my parents."

But the duties of children towards their parents are not limited to the duration of the lives of the latter. During the period of mourning for them, which is twenty-seven months, public officers are not allowed to perform any kind of business. It is not uncommon for a family to expend the whole of the property left behind by a parent on his funeral; and when children are not in circumstances to bury a father in a respectable manner, they will keep his coffin for several years. These observations will serve to illustrate the following narrative.

A man, having been apprehended on a charge of having committed an offence against the state, escaped from the custody of his guards, and sought refuge with his friend Loo-nan-kin. His retreat was discovered. Loo-nan-kin was imprisoned; and preparations were making for his trial, when the younger brother came forward. "It is I who harboured the fugitive," said he, "of course I ought to die, and not my brother." Loo-nan-kin, on the other hand, declared that he alone was guilty, and that his brother had falsely accused himself. The judge cross-questioned the young man with such skill as to involve him in contradictions, and he was at last obliged to

confess the imposture. "Alas!" said he, "I had strong reasons for acting thus: it is a long time since our mother died, and we have not yet been able to pay her the duties of sepulture: we have, moreover, a sister unmarried. My elder brother alone has it in his power to provide for these exigencies, so that it were better for me to die in his stead; I conjure you, therefore, to receive my evidence." The judge was deeply affected: he reported this instance of filial piety and brotherly love to the supreme tribunal, and the emperor pardoned the culprit.

A YOUNG MOOR.

A Portuguese surgeon was accosted one day by a young Moor from the country, who, addressing him by the usual appellation of foreign doctors in that place, requested him to give him some *drogues* to kill his father; and, as an inducement, promised to pay him well. The surgeon was not a little surprised at first, as might be expected, and was unable to answer immediately; but quickly recovering himself, for he knew the habits of the people well, replied, with *sang froid* equal to the Moor's, "Then you don't live comfortably with your father, I suppose?" "Oh, nothing can be better," returned the Moor; "he has made much money, has married me well, and endowed me with all his possessions; but he cannot work any longer, he is so old, and he seems unwilling to die." The doctor, of course, appreciated the amiable philosophy of the Moor's reasoning, and promised to give him what he desired: he accordingly prepared a cordial potion, more calculated to restore energy to the old man than to take it away. The Moor paid

him well, and departed. About eight days after he came again, to say that his father was not dead. "Not dead!" exclaimed the apothecary, in well-feigned surprise; "he will die." He composed, accordingly, another draught, for which he received an equal remuneration, and assured the Moor that it would not fail in its effects. In fifteen days, however, the Moor came again, complaining that his father thrived better than ever. "Don't be discouraged," said the doctor, who doubtless found these periodical visits by no means unprofitable, "give him another potion, and I will exert all my skill in its preparation." The Moor took it, but returned no more. One day the surgeon met his young acquaintance in the street, and inquired the success of the remedy. "It was of no avail," said he, mournfully; "my father is in excellent health. God has preserved him from all our efforts; there is no doubt that he is a Marabout" (a saint.)

The youth of China receive the earliest impressions of the duty of filial obedience. Several precepts prevent their incurring the penalties prescribed in the code of laws of that empire against such "degenerate vipers" as shall dare to violate any of those sacred ties which God has framed to attach them to the authors of their existence. The son or grandson of a Chinese, who is deficient in his duty towards his father or mother, grandfather or grandmother, is condemned by the laws to receive one hundred blows of a bamboo; if he gives them abusive language, he is strangled; if he lifts his hand against them, he is beheaded; and if he wounds or maims them, his flesh is torn from his bones with

red-hot pincers, and he is cut into a thousand pieces.

A preacher, several centuries ago, when delivering his sentiments on the evils of the age, used the following beautiful figure, descriptive of those who live neglectful of their aged parents, who had cherished them into prosperity : "See the trees flourish and recover their leaves ; it is their root that has produced all ; but when the branches are loaded with flowers and with fruit, they yield nothing to the root. This is an image of those children who prefer their own amusements, and to game away their fortunes, than to give to their old parents the cares which they want."

SECTION III.—RELATIONS AND FRIENDS.

COUSINS.

A country gentleman, lately arrived at Boston, immediately repaired to the house of a relative, a lady who had married a merchant of that city. The parties were glad to see him, and invited him to make their house his home, as he declared his intention of remaining in the city but a day or two. The husband of the lady, anxious to show attention to a relative and friend of his wife, took the gentleman's horse to a livery stable, and had it put up there. Finally the visit became a visitation, and the merchant, after the lapse of eleven days, found that, besides lodging and boarding the gentleman, a pretty considerable bill had been run up at the

livery stable. Accordingly, he went to the man who kept the stable, and told him, when the gentleman took his horse he would pay the bill. "Very good," said the stable-keeper, "I understand you." Accordingly, in a short time, the country gentleman went to the stable and ordered his horse to be got ready. The bill, of course, was presented. "Oh," said the gentleman, "Mr. so-and-so, my relation, will pay this." "Very good, Sir," said the stable-keeper, "please to get an order from Mr. —, it will be the same as the money." The horse was put up again, and down went the country gentleman to Long Wharf, where the merchant was. "Well," said he, "I am going now." "Are you?" said the merchant, "well, good bye, Sir." "Well, about my horse; the man says the bill must be paid for his keeping." "Well, I suppose that's all right, Sir." "Yes—well—but you know I am your wife's cousin." "Yes," said the merchant, "I know you are, but your horse is not!"

COLUMBUS.

About half a league from Palos, on a solitary height, overlooking the sea-coast, and surrounded by a forest of pine-trees, there stood an ancient convent of Franciscan friars, dedicated to Santa Maria de Rabida. A stranger travelling on foot, accompanied by a young boy, stopped one day at the gate of the convent, and asked of the porter a little bread and water for his child. While receiving this humble refreshment, the guardian of the convent, Friar Juan Perez de Marchena, happening to pass by, was struck with the appearance of the stranger, and, observing from his air and accent that he was a foreigner, en-

tered into conversation with him. That stranger was Columbus, accompanied by his young son Diego. He was on his way to the neighbouring town of Huelva, to seek a brother-in-law, who married a sister of his deceased wife.

SIR HORACE VERE.

Sir Horace Vere, on being asked by the Marquis Spinola, a celebrated general, the cause of his brother's death, is said to have replied, "He died, Sir, of having nothing to do." "Alas!" said the marquis, "that is cause enough to kill any general of us all."

LADY MEYNELL.

Incidents seemingly beneath notice, says Hutton, in his "History of Derby," not only characterize persons, but exhibit the different style of life between the last century and the present. While the Meynell family were spending their sober evening by the glow of their own fire, a coach-and-six was heard rolling up to the door. "Bring candles," said the lady of the mansion, with some caution, while she stepped forward to receive the guests; but instantly returning, she said, "Light up a rush, it is only my cousin Curzon."

DR. FRANKLIN.

A nephew of the celebrated Dr. Benjamin Franklin, who had yet to learn prudence, was rather taken unawares in a net he had unwittingly spread for himself. Being out on a party of pleasure at a distance from New England, he called on his uncle,

but not before he had pecuniary reasons for so doing. After a friendly reception, he solicited the loan of a small sum of money, preluding his request with stating, that he had loaded a vessel for B—, and that, as he did not deal on credit, he had purchased rather beyond his current cash, and could not easily procure a draft from home. The doctor inquiring how much he wanted, he, with some hesitation, replied, fifty dollars. The benevolent old gentleman went to his scrutoire, and counted him one hundred. He received them with many promises of punctual payment, and was immediately proceeding to draught a note under his hand for cash. The doctor, who saw into the nature of the borrower's embarrassments better than he was aware, and felt the improbability of ever recovering his cash, stepped across the room, and, laying his hand gently upon his nephew's arm, said, "Stop, cousin; we will save the paper: a quarter of a sheet is not of great value, but it is worth saving:" conveying at once a liberal gift, and a no less gentle reproof to the young spendthrift.

A WELSH CARD OF INVITATION.

Llandiller Castle.

Mr. Walter Norton, and Mrs. Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys' compliments to Mr. Charles Morgan, Mrs. Charles Morgan, Miss Charles Morgan, and the Governess, (whose name Mr. Walter Norton, Mrs. Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, do not recollect,) and Mr. Walter Norton, Mrs. Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, request the favour of the company of Mr. Charles Morgan, Mrs. Charles Morgan, and Miss Charles Morgan, and the Governess, (whose name

Mr. Walter Norton, Mrs. Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, do not recollect,) to dinner on Monday next week. Mr. Walter Norton, Mrs. Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, beg to inform Mr. Charles Morgan, Mrs. Charles Morgan, and Miss Charles Morgan, and the Governess, (whose name Mr. Walter Norton, Mrs. Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, do not recollect,) that Mr. Walter Norton, Mrs. Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, can accommodate Mr. Charles Morgan, Mrs. Charles Morgan, Miss Charles Morgan, and the Governess, (whose name Mr. Walter Norton, Mrs. Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, do not recollect,) with beds, if remaining the night is agreeable to Mr. Charles Morgan, Mrs. Charles Morgan, Miss Charles Morgan, and the Governess, (whose name Mr. Walter Norton, Mrs. Walter Norton, and Miss Sandys, do not recollect).

A SCOTTISH SOLDIER.

A simple story of the love of home is told by a soldier, after the battle of Waterloo. He says :—
“ When we were in camp before the Thuilleries the first day, two girls were looking very eagerly up and down the regiment, when we were on parade. ‘ Do you wish a careless husband, my dear ? ’ said one of the lads. ‘ May be ; will you be ’t ? ’ said a Glasgow voice. ‘ Where do you come from ? ’ said the rough fellow. ‘ We’re Paisley lasses : this is our regiment ; we want to see if there’s any body here we ken.’ The soldier, who was a Glasgow lad, could not speak. There is a music in our native tongue, in a foreign land, when it is not to be looked for, that often melts the heart, when we hear

it unexpectedly. The two girls had found their way from Paisley to Paris, and were working at tambouring, and did very well."

STERNE AND GARRICK.

Sterne, who used his wife very ill, was one day talking to Garrick in a fine sentimental manner in praise of conjugal love and fidelity. "The husband," said Sterne, "who behaves unkindly to his wife, deserves to have his house burnt over his head." "If you think so," said Garrick, "I hope *your* house is insured."

A DEAF AND DUMB YOUTH.

The Countess Lichtenau relates the following interesting account of a young man, educated at the Establishment for Deaf and Dumb Children at Berlin:—

A Protestant minister at Anspach, named Hoffman, had nine children, six of whom were deaf and dumb. But one, whom nature had not treated with so much injustice, was employed at Berlin in the department of the mines. He waited upon me one day, accompanied by one of his deaf and dumb brothers; described to me the distressing situation of his family; showed me several pictures which his brother had painted; and besought me to take him under my protection. I observed, in the works of this unfortunate young man, the germ of real talent, and immediately gave him a commission to make me some copies; of which he acquitted himself admirably, and for which I paid him. His accuracy, zeal, and good conduct, having augmented the inte-

rest with which he had first inspired me, I settled upon him a fixed salary ; and I had, shortly after, the satisfaction of learning that he had appropriated the greatest portion towards assisting his poor parents. I then determined on sending him to Dresden, that he might there copy the most rare pictures in that celebrated collection ; where he spent nine months in fulfilling, with the greatest intelligence, the commission intrusted to him. He returned to Berlin, and lived honourably on the fruits of his talents and industry. I set off for Italy, and on my arrival wrote to his majesty, Frederic William III., requesting that he would permit Hoffman to join me ; which favour was granted. Hoffman repaired to Rome, and there I left him on my departure for Germany. But no sooner did he learn my misfortunes than he quitted Italy, and came directly to my house at Charlottenberg ; and when he became convinced that he had not been imposed upon, but that I was really absent, and in captivity, he was seized with frenzy, and went and threw himself into the Spire. He was saved ; but, alas ! his reason never returned ; and this victim of gratitude afterwards put a period to his existence during a paroxysm of insanity.

CHAPTER III.

DUTIES AND EMPLOYMENTS OF FAMILIES.

SECTION I.—EMPLOYERS AND SERVANTS.

EARL OF PEMBROKE.

HENRY, late Earl of Pembroke, had many good qualities, but always persisted inflexibly in his own opinion, which, as well as his conduct, was often very singular. His lordship thought of an ingenious expedient to prevent the remonstrances and expostulations of those about him; and this was to feign himself deaf; and thus, under pretence of hearing very imperfectly, he would always form his answers, not by what was said to him, but by what he desired to have said.

Among other servants, was one who had lived with him from a child, and served him with great fidelity in several capacities, till at length he became coachman. This man, by degrees, got a habit of drinking, for which his lady often desired he might be dismissed. My lord always answered, "Yes, indeed, John is an excellent servant." "I say," replied the lady, "that he is continually drunk, and therefore desire he may be turned off." "Ay," said his lordship, "he has lived with me from a child, and, as you say, a trifle of wages should not part us."

John, however, one evening, as he was driving from Kensington, overturned his lady in Hyde-park : though not much hurt, yet, when she came home, she began to tease the earl. "Here," said she, "is that beast John, so drunk that he can scarcely stand ; he has overturned the coach, and if he is not discharged he will one day break our necks." "Ay," said my lord, "is poor John sick ? Alas, I am sorry for him." "I am complaining," said my lady, "that he is drunk, and has overturned me." "Ay," replied my lord, "to be sure he has behaved very well, and shall have proper advice." My lady, finding it useless to remonstrate, went away in a passion ; and the earl having ordered John into his presence, addressed him very coolly in these terms : "John, you know that I have a regard for you ; and, as long as you behave well, you shall always be taken care of in my family. My lady tells me that you are taken ill ; and indeed I see that you can hardly stand : go to bed, and I will take care that you have proper advice." John being thus dismissed, was carried to bed, where, by his lordship's order, a large blister was put upon his head, another between his shoulders, and sixteen ounces of blood taken from his arm. John found himself next morning in a woful condition, and was soon acquainted with the whole process, and the reasons on which it was made. He had no remedy but to submit, for he would rather have endured ten blisters than lose his place. His lordship sent very formally, twice a day, to know how he did, and frequently congratulated his lady upon John's recovery ; whom he directed to be fed only with water-gruel, and to have no company but an old woman, who acted as his nurse. In about a week, John having constantly sent word that he was well, his lordship thought fit to understand

the messenger, and said, he was extremely glad to hear the fever had quite left him, and desired to see him. When John came in, "Well, John," said his lordship, "I hope this bout is over." "Ah, my lord," said John, "I humbly ask your lordship's pardon, and I promise never to commit the same fault again." "Ay, ay," replied my lord, "you say right; nobody can prevent sickness; and if you should be ill again, John, I shall see it, though perhaps you would not complain; and I promise you that you shall have always the same advice and attendance that you have had now." "God bless your lordship," said John, "I hope there will be no need." "So do I," said the earl; "but, as long as you perform your duty to me, John, I will do mine to you, never fear." John then withdrew, and so dreaded the discipline he had undergone, that he never was known to be drunk afterwards.

MR. G. AND JERVAS.

Mr. G.—Ha! Jervas, how are you, my old boy? how do things go on at home?

Steward.—Bad enough, your honour: the magpie's dead.

Mr. G.—Poor Mag! so he is gone. How came he to die?

Steward.—Over-ate himself, Sir.

Mr. G.—Did he? a greedy dog! Why, what did he get that he liked so well?

Steward.—Horse-flesh, Sir; he died of eating horse-flesh.

Mr. G.—How came he to get so much horse-flesh?

Steward.—All your father's horses, Sir.

Mr. G.—What! are they dead too?

Steward.—Ay, Sir, they died of over-work.

Mr. G.—And why were they over-worked, pray?

Steward.—To carry water, Sir.

Mr. G.—To carry water! And what were they carrying water for?

Steward.—Sure, Sir, to put out the fire.

Mr. G.—Fire! what fire?

Steward.—Oh, Sir, your father's house is burnt down to the ground.

Mr. G.—My father's house burnt down! and how came it set on fire?

Steward.—I think, Sir, it must have been the torches.

Mr. G.—Torches! what torches?

Steward.—At your mother's funeral.

Mr. G.—My mother dead!

Steward.—Ah, poor lady! she never looked up after it.

Mr. G.—After what?

Steward.—The loss of your father.

Mr. G.—My father gone too!

Steward.—Yes, poor gentleman! he took to his bed as soon as he heard of it.

Mr. G.—Heard of what?

Steward.—The bad news, Sir, an' please your honour.

Mr. G.—What! more miseries? more bad news?

Steward.—Yes, Sir, your bank has failed, and your credit is lost, and you are not worth a shilling in the world. I made bold, Sir, to come to wait on you to tell you about it, for I thought you would like to hear the news.

MR. HARRIOT.

Mr. Harriot, late magistrate of the Thames Police, was, in his youth, midshipman on board a ship of war lying at New York. A poor girl, whose mother kept a tavern at St. John's, Newfoundland, had been enticed away by an officer, who brought her to England, and then deserted her. She passed over to Ireland, where she had some relations; but determined to return to America, and went in a brig filled with Redemptioners, that is, persons who redeem the price of their passage by the sale of their services for a certain term of years. This poor girl came to market for sale when Mr. Harriot was there; and relating her unhappy tale, he purchased her from the captain, and sent her in a schooner to Newfoundland; where he afterwards went himself, and was welcomed with tears of gratitude by the mother and the daughter.

AN ENGLISH MASTER AND AN IRISH SERVANT.

The first question in a whimsical dialogue between an English gentleman, on his arrival in Ireland, and Terence, his servant, a native of that country, related to rain.

Master.—Does it rain?

Terry.—No, Sir.

M.—I see the sun shines—*Post nebulas Phæbus.*

T.—The post has not come in yet.

M.—How long did you live with Mr. T.?

T.—In throth, Sir, I can't tell. I passd my time so pleasantly in his service that I never kept any account of it. I might have lived with him all the

days of my life, and a great deal longer, if I pleased.

M.—What made you leave him?

T.—My young mistress took it into her head to break my heart ; for I was obliged to attend her to church, to the play, and wherever she visited.

M.—Was not your master a proud man?

T.—The proudest man in the kingdom ; he would not do a dirty action for the universe.

M.—What age are you now?

T.—I am just the same age as Paddy Leahy : he and I were born in a week of each other.

M.—How old is he?

T.—I can't tell ; and I don't think he can tell himself.

M.—Were you born in Dublin?

T.—No, Sir ; I might if I had a mind ; but I preferred the country ; and, please God, if I live and do well, I'll be buried in the same parish I was born in.

M.—You can write, I suppose?

T.—Yes, Sir ; as fast as a dog can trot.

M.—Which is the usual mode of travelling in this country?

T.—Why, Sir, if you travel by water, you must take a boat ; and if you travel by land, either in a chaise or on horseback ; those who can't afford one or t'other, are obliged to trudge it on foot.

M.—Which is the pleasantest season for travelling?

T.—Why, Sir, I think that season in which a man has most money in his purse.

M.—I believe your roads are passably good?

T.—They are passable, Sir, if you pay the turnpike.

M.—I am told that you have an immensity of black cattle in this country.

T.—Why, we have, Sir, plenty of every colour.

M.—But I think it rains too much in Ireland.

T.—So every one says ; but Sir Boyle says he will bring an act of Parliament for fair weather ; and I am sure the poor hay-makers and turf-cutters will bless him for it. Bless him ! it was he that first proposed that every quart bottle should hold a quart.

M.—As you have many fine rivers, I suppose you have abundance of fish ?

T.—The best water ever wet—the first fish in the world except themselves. Why, master, I don't tell you a lie ; if you were at the Boyne you could get salmon and trout for nothing ; and if you were at Ballyshanny you could get them for less.

M.—Were you ever in England ?

T.—No, Sir ; but I'd like very much to see that fine country.

M.—Your passage to Liverpool, or the Head, would not cost more than half-a-guinea.

T.—Throth, master, I'd rather walk it than pay half the money.

RICHARD LAWRENCE.

The following is an extract from a Memoir of Mrs. C. Bernard, of Southampton :—

Of her conduct as a mistress I cannot give a better proof, than that those servants who were worth keeping, stayed till they were removed by death or marriage. One of her female servants lived with her, or waited round her person, forty years ; and the almost unparalleled instance which follows, perhaps reflects as much honour on the man-servant as it does on the mistress, or master, one of her sons. It is briefly

expressed in the inscription over his grave, which is as follows :—

In Memory of
Mr. Richard Lawrence,
Who, after living *sixty years* in
The family of the Bernards above Barr,
Departed this life, 12th Feb., 1795,
Aged 74 years.
His humble demeanour,
His affectionate faithfulness,
And persevering diligence in his station,
Are best attested by the fact
Related above.
His surviving master,
Mr. William Bernard,
Raises this stone as a memorial
Of so uncommon an instance of
PRIVATE EXCELLENCE.

TWO CHINESE SERVANTS.

A mandarin in China had two servants; one came from the north, the other from the south part of China. The mandarin one day ordered the south countryman to carry out his son to take the air: the servant let the child fall into a horse-pond; and, instead of quickly endeavouring to extricate the child, he returned to inform his master; but fearing to disturb him, as he was writing some official documents, he stood quietly by for the space of two hours. At length, his master seeing him standing at a distance, asked him what he wanted? “Sir,” said he, “the boy is fallen into the pond, and I come to beg you to send somebody to take him out.” “What! you scoundrel,” said the mandarin, “have you stood here

silent without telling?" "I durst not disturb you, Sir," said he. The mandarin ran to the pond, but found the child had been dead for some time. He was then so vexed as to declare, that never would he have any thing more to do with south-country servants.

On a certain day, the master was called out without delay from home, and was obliged to go on foot. Coming to the side of a small river, he found there was no boat. He had his servant with him from the north: "Never fear, Sir," said he, "I will manage it;" and, pulling off some of his clothes, said, "If you will get upon my back, Sir, I will carry you through in a moment." The mandarin, when they had got about half-way over, said, "My good fellow, this is just what I like; the promptitude of you north-country lads is very valuable. As a reward, I mean to give you one of my maid-servants in marriage. The servant, on hearing this, was so overpowered with joy, that, having no patience to wait till he had got to the shore, he fell on his knees to thank him for the favour; and thus, very unceremoniously, let his master sink into the river.

ANCIENT SERVANTS.

The following curious paper contains regulations for the household servants of an English baronet, about the year 1566.

I. That no seruant bee absent from praier, at morning or euening, without a lawfull excuse, to be alledged within one day after, vpon paine to forfeit for euery time 2d.

II. That none swear anie othe vppon paine for euery one 1d.

III. That no man leaue any doore open that he findeth shut, without there bee cause, vpon paine for euery tyme 1d.

IV. That none of the men be in bed, from our Lady-day to Michaelmas, after 6 of the clock in the morning; nor out of his bed after 10 of the clock at night; nor from Michaelmas till our Lady-day, in bed after 7 in the morning, nor out after nine at night, without reasonable cause, on pain of 2d.

V. That no man's bed be vnmade, nor fire or candle-box vncleane after 8 of the clock in the morning, on pain of 1d.

* * * * *

VII. That no man teach any of the children any dishonest speech, or othe, on paine of 4d.

VIII. That no man waite at table without a trencher in his hand, except it be upon some good cause, on paine of 1d.

IX. That no man appointed to waite at my table be absent that meale, without reasonable cause, on paine of 1d.

X. If anie man break a glasse hee shall answer the price thereof out of his wages; and if it bee not known who breake it, the butler shall pay for it, on paine of 12d.

XI. The table must be couered haife an houer before 11 at dinner, and 6 at supper, or before, on paine of 2d.

XII. That meate be readie at 11, or before, at dinner, and 6, or before, at supper, on paine of 6d.

XIII. That none be absent, without leave or good cause, the whole day, or anie part of it, on paine of 4d.

XIV. That no man strike his fellow, on paine of loss of seruice ; nor reuile or threaten, or provoke one another to strike, on paine of 12d.

XV. That no man come to the kitchen without reasonable cause, on paine of 1d., and the cook likewise to forfeit 1d.

XVI. That none toy with the maids, on paine of 4d.

XVII. That no man weare foule shirt on Sunday, nor broken hose, or shooes, or doublett without buttons, on paine of 1d.

XVIII. That when any stranger goeth hence, the chamber be drest vp againe within 4 howers after, on paine of 1d.

XIX. That the hall bee made cleane euery day, by eight in the winter, and seuen in the summer, on paine of him that shall do it 1d.

XX. That the court-gate bee shut each meale, and not opened during dinner and supper, without just cause, on paine the porter to forfeit for every time 1d.

XXI. That all stayrs in the house, and other rooms that need shall require, bee made clean on Fryday after dinner on paine of forfeiture of euery one whom it shall belong vnto 3d.

All which sommes shall be duly paide each quarter-day out of their wages, and bestowed on the poore, or other godly use.

DEAN SWIFT.

Swift had some whimsical contrivances to punish his servants for disobedience of orders. The hiring of his maid-servants he left to the house-keeper, and

that ceremony over, acquainted them, that he had but two commands to give them—one, to shut the door whenever they came into a room; the other, to shut the door after them, whenever they went out of a room. One of these maid-servants came to him one day, and requested permission to go to her sister's wedding, which was to be that day, at a place distant about ten miles from Dublin. Swift not only consented, but said he would lend her one of his own horses, with a servant to ride before her, and gave his directions accordingly. The maid, in her joy for this favour, forgot to shut the door when she left the room: in about a quarter of an hour after she was gone, the dean ordered a servant to saddle another horse, and make all the speed he could to overtake them, and oblige them to return back immediately. They had not got more than half the way, when he overtook them, and delivered them the dean's positive commands, with which, however reluctantly, the poor girl was obliged to comply: she came into his presence, with a most mortified countenance, and begged to know his honour's commands.—“Only to shut the door after you,” was the reply. But not to carry the punishment too far, he then permitted her to resume her journey.

A FEMALE SERVANT.

About twenty or thirty years since, a gentleman named Webster, who lived in the Woodlands, a wild, uncultivated, barren range of hills in Derbyshire, bordering upon the confines of Yorkshire, had occasion to go from home. The family, besides himself, consisted of the servant-man, a young girl, and the

housekeeper. At his departure he gave his man a strict charge to remain in the house, along with the females ; and not on any account to absent himself at night, until his return. This the man promised to do ; and Mr. Webster proceeded on his journey. At night, however, the man went out, notwithstanding all the earnest entreaties and remonstrances of the housekeeper to the contrary ; and not coming in, she and the servant-girl at the usual time went to bed. Sometime in the night they were awakened by a loud knocking at the door. The housekeeper got up, went down stairs, and inquired who was there, and what was their business ? She was informed that a friend of Mr. Webster being benighted, and the night wet and stormy, requested a night's lodging. She forthwith gave him admittance, roused up the fire, led his horse into the stable, and then returned to provide something to eat for her guest, of which he partook, and was then shown to his chamber. On returning to the kitchen, she took up his great-coat in order to dry it, when, perceiving it to be, as she thought, very heavy, curiosity prompted her to examine the pockets, in which she found a pair of loaded pistols and their own large carving-knife. Thunderstruck by the discovery, she immediately perceived what sort of a guest she had to deal with, and his intentions. However, summoning up all her courage and resolution, she proceeded softly up stairs, and, with a rope, fastened, as well as she could, the door of the room in which the villain was ; then went down, and in great perturbation of mind awaited the event. Shortly after a man came to the window, and, in a low but distinct tone of voice, said, " Are you ready ? " She grasped one of the pistols, with a desperate resolution, presented it

to his face, and fired. The report of the pistol alarmed the villain above, who attempted to get out of the room ; but was stopped in his purpose by her saying, " Villain, if you open the door, you are a dead man." She then sent the servant-girl for assistance, while she remained, with the other pistol in her hand, guarding the chamber-door. When help arrived, the villain was taken into custody ; and, on searching without, they found the servant-man shot dead. Another, who was taken shortly after, met with his deserts ; and the housekeeper, who had acted with such fidelity and such unparalleled intrepidity, was soon after married to her master.

AN IRISH SERVANT.

The following is reported as an actual conversation between an Irish lady and an Irish servant out of place :—

" Ah ! then, I'm proud to see your ladyship ; and God reward ye and be good to ye, for the favour ye've shown a poor lone ould craythur like myself ! Sure, what would I do but die only for ye ? " " Why don't you try to get a place ? " " A place is it ? Och, it's my feet that's wore off looking after them for places ; and the worst o' them wont take up wid me, 'cause I'm ould and Irish, which is a shame ; and you, ma'am, and many like ye, from the sod, God bless ye ! " " Well, you must only keep up your spirits. " " Troth, ma'am, it's all I have to keep. And now there's two o' my front teeth gone ; though to be sure they took the best time to be off, when I'd nothing for 'em to do."

AN ITALIAN NOBLEMAN AND HIS
SERVANT.

A nobleman residing at a castle in Italy was about to celebrate his marriage-feast. All the elements were propitious except the ocean, which had been so boisterous as to deny the very necessary appendage of fish. On the very morning of the feast, however, a poor fisherman made his appearance, with a turbot so large that it seemed to have been created for the occasion. Joy pervaded the castle ; and the fisherman was ushered with his prize into the saloon, where the nobleman, in the presence of his visitors, requested him to put what price he thought proper on the fish, and it should be instantly paid him. "One hundred lashes," said the fisherman, "on my bare back, is the price of the fish ; and I will not bate one strand of whipcord on the bargain." The nobleman and his guests were not a little astonished ; but our tradesman was resolute, and remonstrance was in vain. At length the nobleman exclaimed, "Well, well, the fellow is a humorist, and the fish we must have ; but lay on lightly, and let the price be paid in our presence." After fifty lashes had been administered, "Hold, hold," exclaimed the fisherman, "I have a partner in this business, and it is fitting that he should receive his share." "What, are there two such madcaps in the world ?" exclaimed the nobleman ; "name him, and he shall be sent for instantly." "You need not go far for him," said the fisherman ; "you will find him at your gate, in the shape of your own porter ; who would not let me in, until I promised that he should have the half of whatever I received for my turbot." "Oh, oh," said the nobleman, "bring him up instantly ; he shall receive his stipulated moiety

with the strictest justice." This ceremony being finished, he discharged the porter, and amply rewarded the fisherman.

A MINISTER'S MAN.

In Scotland, the male servant of a country clergyman, known by the name of "the Minister's Man," used to be a person of some importance. One of these having rather an economical mistress, who grudged particularly the expense of candle-light, John contrived at least to make his master sensible of the inconvenience of darkness. It happened, one night, that the minister, being sent for in a hurry by one of his parishioners, who was taken ill, John thought proper to saddle the cow instead of the horse. After proceeding a little way, the minister turned back, and called out rather angrily, that the horse had got horns. "If there has been a mistake made," answered John, "the mistress must be responsible, as she chooses to send me to the stable always in the dark."

MR. BLUSTER'S SERVANT.

"Is Mr. Bluster within?" "No, he is out of town," remarked the servant. "When can I see him?" "I don't know: have you any special business with Mr. Bluster?" "Yes, there is a small bill which I wish to settle." "Well," said the servant, "I don't know whether he will return this week or not." "But I wish to pay the bill, as I am to leave town immediately." "Oh! you wish to pay him some money? he is up stairs, I'm thinking: I will

call him. Please to walk into the drawing-room ; take a chair, Sir ; your hat, if you please ; Mr. Bluster will be with you in a moment !”

When shall we learn the propriety of teaching our servants always to speak the truth ? If they tell falsehoods for us, will they not soon tell them for themselves ?

EARL FITZWILLIAM.

The founder of the present noble family of Fitzwilliam was Alderman of Bread-street in the year 1506. Before his death he forgave all his debtors ; and wrote upon the account of each, “ Amore Dei remitto ! ”—cancelled for the love of God.

Cardinal Wolsey was the chief means of this worthy citizen acquiring his large fortune. After the disgrace of the cardinal, Fitzwilliam very hospitably entertained him at Milton, Northamptonshire, one of the fine seats of the present earl. Henry VIII. was so enraged at this, that he sent for Fitzwilliam to court, and said, “ How, ha ! how comes it, ha ! that you dare entertain a traitor ? ” Fitzwilliam modestly replied, “ Please your highness, I did it not from disloyalty, but gratitude.” The angry monarch here interrupted him by, “ How, ha ! ” the usual exclamation of his rage. Fitzwilliam, with the tear of gratitude in his eye, and the burst of loyalty in his bosom, continued, “ From gratitude, as he was my old master, and the means of my greatest fortunes.”

Impetuous Harry was so much pleased with the answer, that he shook him heartily by the hand, and said, “ Such gratitude, ha ! shall never want a mas-

ter. Come into my service, worthy man, and teach my other servants gratitude, for few of them have any." He then knighted him on the spot ; and he was immediately sworn in as a privy councillor.

SECTION II.—DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENTS.

A SYRIAN FAMILY.

In the Travels of John Carne, Esq., in the East, the following example of Syrian hospitality occurs ; and was accepted, as well it might, by the author and his friends, with emotions of lively gratitude :—

We entered the populous town ; and, instead of making our way, as usual, to the caravanseraï, we resolved to trust to the hospitality of the natives. After winding through several narrow, dirty, and precipitous streets, we at last had the pleasure of alighting at the door of a dwelling, to which a flight of steps conducted us. The household was a large one ; several young and good-looking women formed part of it, who received us kindly, and set about in earnest to prepare the supper. The only objection to the luxury of this warm divan was, that all the mysteries of the cooking were obliged to be performed within the settle at the cheerful fire ; over which, in intense earnestness, bent the forms of our Syrian hostesses ; their dark eyes fixed, not on conquest or mischief, but on an excellent omelet, and one or two other preparations. The tresses of their dark hair dropped at times so near the blaze as to threaten the destruction of that richest ornament of woman. It needed not the strong fatigue of that day's journey, the drizzling rain, and the desolate town without, to enter

with strong relish into the scene and its tempting accompaniments. The repast was at last ready ; we would fain have shared it with the fair preparers, who had so well received the hostless strangers ; but they declined, and stood calmly and silently gazing at the good-will with which their viands were devoured. Their figures were slight and very well made, the complexion pale, but the features lively and expressive ; with those inseparable features, the raven hair and the dark eye.

A POOR SCHOLAR.

A young gentleman of no fortune, a student at Oxford, fell in love with an innkeeper's daughter of that town, whose circumstances were very narrow. He had philosophy enough to despise superfluous wealth, and judgment to foresee the necessity of a competency ; but love was headstrong, and too hard for reason ; so that, after a year or two's ineffectual delay, they had courage enough to marry ! The scholar gained a wife, and lost a fellowship, the only small subsistence he before depended on.

The innkeeper often upbraided the bridegroom with the barren effects of his learning, and thought it very strange that while every body told him his son-in-law was a great scholar, his whole stock of knowledge could not help him to one penny of his own getting.

Six or seven months after this marriage, the father-in-law died, miserably poor, and the credit which his industry maintained in his life-time dying with him, the goods he left behind were seized on by his creditors, and the student and his young wife

turned out of doors, to eat the bread of fortune where they could find it.

The wife had a relation in town, unable to contribute any great assistance ; she took them, however, into a garret of her house, where the man could only waste his hours between books and sighs, while the partner of his sorrows made hard shift to pick up a support by knitting stockings, at a certain small price for every pair.

At last, their cares at once became more weighty, and their patience less fortified. The only subject of their conversation now, was their melancholy dread of what would become of the poor infant, who was to be born a beggar.

But, sitting constantly together from morning to night, the scholar often fixed his eyes, with steadfast observation, on the motion of his wife's fingers, in the dexterous management of her needles : he took it into his imagination, that it was not impossible to contrive a little loom, which might do the work with much more expedition.

This thought he communicated to his wife, and joining his head to her hands, the endeavour succeeded to their wish. Thus the ingenious stocking-loom, which is so common, was first invented, by which he not only made himself and his family happy, but left his nation indebted to him for a benefit which enables us to export silk stockings in great quantities, and to a vast advantage, to those very countries from whence before we used to bring them at considerable loss in the balance of traffic.

DEAN SWIFT.

Dean Swift, on one occasion, invited to dinner several of the first noblemen and gentlemen in Dublin, who, knowing his punctuality, assembled at the appointed time to a minute. A servant announced the dinner, and the dean led the way to the dining-room. To each chair was a servant, a bottle of wine, a roll, and an inverted plate. On taking his seat, the dean desired his guests to arrange themselves according to their own ideas of precedence, and fall to. The company were astonished to find the table without a dish, or any provisions. The Lord Chancellor, who was present, said, "Mr. Dean, we do not see the joke. "Then I will show it you," answered the dean, turning up his plate, under which was half-a-crown, and a bill of fare from a neighbouring tavern. "Here, Sir," said he to his servant, "bring me a plate of goose." The company caught the idea, and each man sent his plate and half-a-crown.

Covers with every thing that the appetites of the moment dictated, soon appeared. The novelty, the peculiarity of the manner, and the unexpected circumstances, altogether excited the plaudits of the noble guests, who declared themselves remarkably gratified by the dean's entertainment. "Well," said the dean, "gentlemen, if you have dined, I will order the dessert." A large roll of paper, presenting the particulars of a splendid dinner, was produced, with an estimate of the expense. The dean requested the accountant-general to deduct the half-crowns from the amount, observing, "that as his noble guests were pleased to express their satisfaction with the dinner, he begged their advice and assistance in

disposing of the fragments and crumbs," as he termed the balance mentioned by the accountant-general, namely, two hundred and fifty pounds. The company said that no person was capable of instructing the dean in things of that nature. After the circulation of the finest wines, the most judicious remarks on charity, and its abuse, were introduced; and it was agreed, that the most proper objects of liberal relief, were well-educated families, who from affluence, or the expectation of it, were reduced through misfortune to silent despair. The dean then divided the sum according to the number of his guests, and requested them to distribute it among the poor families in their respective connexions.

THE ICELANDERS.

The love of literature has prevailed from very early times among the inhabitants of Iceland. There, the way in which the evenings of their long winter are spent, furnishes a most agreeable contrast to the miserable pot-house debauchery which fills up the leisure of too many uncultivated Englishmen, and proves the value of a well-regulated knowledge, as an auxiliary to virtue. A distinguished traveller, who spent a winter in Iceland, has described a winter evening in an Icelandic family, as rendered instructive and pleasing, in the highest degree, by the prevailing love of useful knowledge among all ranks. As soon as the evening shuts in, the family assemble, master and mistress, children and servants. They all take their work in their hands, except one, who acts as reader. Though they have very few printed books, numbers write excellently, and copy

out the numerous histories of their own island. The reader is frequently interrupted by the head of the family, or some of the more intelligent members, who make remarks, and propose questions to exercise the ingenuity of the children or the servants. In this way the minds of all are improved in such a degree, "that," says this writer, "I have frequently been astonished at the familiarity with which many of these self-taught peasants have discoursed on subjects, which, in other countries, we should expect to hear discussed by those only who have devoted their lives to the study of science." Let me not omit to add, that the evening thus rationally and virtuously begun, is, by these well-instructed people, closed with an act of family devotion.

A PERSIAN FAMILY.

A Persian writer, of piety and learning, mentions that a citizen who was the guest of one of the Eeliantee, in Persia, when he began one morning, according to his custom, to read aloud a chapter of the Koran, was assailed with a stick by his host's wife, who asked him, in a rage, if he imagined any of the family to be dead, that he thought it necessary to read that book? The husband, while reproving the violence of his wife, blamed also his friend, saying, that he should have known better than to anticipate misfortune, by going through a ceremony only used at funerals.

JOSEPH AUSTIN.

A bricklayer, in the neighbourhood of Cambridge, of the name of Joseph Austin, had often looked with

a longing eye upon a bit of ground by the road-side, part of what is called, by a term which reflects little credit upon manorial rights or parochial management, the lord's waste. Whenever he looked at this spot, he used to think what a nice place it would be for a house ; and being a builder by trade, and something of a castle-builder by nature, he used, as soon as he fell asleep at night, to dream that he was at work with his brickbats and trowel. At length he applied to the manor-court, and got a verbal leave to build on the spot. Two of his neighbours, moved by envy, as he says, threatened that if he began his house they would pull it down. Upon this, he applied a second time to the court, and obtained a legal permission, with the consent of all the copyholders, paying for the entry of his name on the court-rolls, and sixpence a year quit rent. Austin was at this time about forty-two years of age ; he had a wife and four children, and his whole stock of worldly riches amounted to fourteen shillings ; but men who really deserve friends are seldom long without them ; and a master with whom he usually worked at harvest, sold him an old cottage for nine guineas, which he was to work out.

Austin had for some time, in his leisure hours, been preparing bats, a sort of bricks made of clay and straw, well beaten together, eighteen inches long, twelve wide, and four thick, not burnt, but dried in the sun. With these, and the materials of the old cottage, he went to work. As he had to live and support his family by his daily labour, this building could only be carried on when his regular day's work was done : he often continued it by moonlight, and heard the clock strike twelve before he withdrew from an occupation in which his heart

was engaged ; this, too, when he had to rise at four the next morning, walk to Cambridge, nearly four miles distant, to his work, and return in the evening. If his constitution had not been unusually strong, it must have sunk under these extraordinary exertions ; but he seems to have possessed a strong frame of body, as well as an invincible spirit. When the building was one story high, and the beams were to be laid on, the carpenter discovered that the timber from the old cottage would not serve for so large a place. This was a severe disappointment ; nothing, however, discouraged him ; he covered it over with a few loads of haum, and immediately began a small place in the same manner at the end, working at this with such perseverance, that he got his family in within four months after the foundations were laid. This great object being accomplished, he went on leisurely with the rest, as he could save money for what was wanting ; after five years he raised the second story, and in ten it was tiled and coated. There was house-room in it for himself and his family, and another apartment was let for a guinea a year.

In this manner did Joseph Austin, with singular industry and economy, build himself a house, which he began with only fourteen shillings in his pocket. During that time his wife had four children, and buried as many more. The money which it cost him was about fifty pounds, the whole of which was saved from the earnings of daily labour. The house and garden occupied about twenty poles of ground ; and the garden was as creditable as the house to the industry and good sense of the owner. One of the fences was made of sweetbriar and roses mixed with woodbine, and the other of dwarf plum

trees ; and against the back of the house he had planted a vine, a nectarine, and a peach-tree.

A FRENCHMAN.

A sanguine Frenchman had so high an opinion of the pleasures to be enjoyed in the study of heraldry, that he used to lament, as we are informed by Menage, the hard case of our forefather Adam, who could not possibly amuse himself by investigating that science, nor that of genealogy.

DR. BURNEY.

Among the peculiarities of Dr. Burney, were two of a very innocent kind ; the first was, the possession of wine of the best vintage ; the next, the dread of a current of air. " Shut the door," was the first salutation uttered by him to any one who entered his apartment ; and but few of his associates ever neglected the rule. This custom did not abandon him on the most trying occasions ; for having been robbed while returning home one evening in his carriage along the Greenwich road, by a couple of foot-pads, who were more eager in obtaining his money than contributing to his comfort, he called them back in a peremptory tone ; and while they were wondering at what he wanted with them, he exclaimed in his usual manner, and with his own peculiar emphasis, " Shut the door !" A voice accustomed to demand produced the desired effect, and he was instantly obeyed.

A DUTCH PEASANT.

Napoleon, when travelling in Holland, after he had subdued it, visited the house of a peasant. The emperor was accompanied by two aides-de-camp, when the following dialogue took place.

Aide-de-camp.—Here comes the emperor (addressing himself to the Dutchman.)

Peasant.—What's that to me?

Napoleon (entering the house.)—Good morning, my good man.

Peasant (taking his hat off, but retaining his seat.)—Good morning.

Emperor.—I am the emperor.

Peasant.—You?

Emperor.—Yes, I.

Peasant.—I am glad of it.

Emperor.—I will make your fortune.

Peasant.—I do not want for any thing.

Emperor.—Have you any daughters?

Peasant.—Yes, two.

Emperor.—I will provide husbands for them.

Peasant.—No, I will do that myself.

The conqueror of Morengo was so chagrined at this uncourteous reception, that he turned quickly on his heel, and left the house.

SECTION III.—FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS.

A CLERGYMAN.

Two young ladies, of a respectable family in the west of England, were so much reduced, as to be compelled to take in needle-work for their subsist-

ence. The circumstance reaching the ear of a wealthy clergyman in the neighbourhood, who had received some favour from the family, he instantly repaired to the house, and, fearful of wounding their delicacy, said, "I am informed, ladies, that you have in your apartment a most valuable picture. I see it is by the hand of a great master ; and if it is not too great a favour, I entreat you to let me have it, for which I will settle an annuity of fifty pounds upon you, and it shall commence this moment." It is unnecessary to add, that the offer was accepted.

A FRENCH BOY.

This youth resided at his father's castle, in the country, with his brother, a lad of eight years of age. One morning, as they were attending their lessons to their tutor, who was a French clergyman, a poor day-labourer came to the door. He inquired for my lord : he was not at home. He asked who was at home : he was informed there were the two young gentlemen and their tutor. He begged to speak with him : he was admitted, and told his mournful tale as follows : —" Sir, I have a brother just dead, and likewise his wife. She has left four children, and the youngest is but eight months old. Myself and two brothers have agreed to take each of us a child, but we do not know what to do with the poor infant." " Why, then, he must go upon the parish," said the unfeeling priest. The young nobleman of thirteen years of age took fire : " What, Sir, is my father able to maintain this great castle, and not able to maintain this poor infant ? Besides, he allows me eight Louis-d'ors a year for my pocket-money, and the poor boy shall have all that. Sir, will you give me leave

to go along with this poor man?" "Yes, Sir." Away they went about two miles. When they came to the cottage, they found the poor infant in the cradle. He stretched out his little hands, and smiled in the young nobleman's face. "Take him up," said he to the labourer. When they had nearly reached his father's castle, he called at an honest countryman's house: "Here," said he, "good woman, take this child, and bring it up for me: I will pay you punctually for your trouble."

CURRAN AND BOYCE.

When a boy, says the late Mr. Curran, I was one morning playing at marbles in the village, with a light heart and a lighter pocket. The jest went gaily round, when suddenly there appeared among us a stranger of a very remarkable and cheerful aspect. He imposed not the least restraint upon our merry little party; on the contrary, he seemed pleased, and even delighted. I think I see his fine form at a distance of half a century just as he then stood before me in the days of my childhood. His name was Boyce, he was the rector of Newmarket; to me he took a particular fancy; I was winning, and full of fun, thinking every thing that was odd, and by no means a miser of my oddities; every one was welcome to share of them, I had plenty to spare. Some sweetmeats easily bribed me home with him; I learned from poor Boyce my alphabet, my grammar, and the rudiments of the classics. He taught me all he could, and then sent me to the school at Middleton. In short, he was the founder of my education, and of my after success in life. I recollect it was about thirty-five years afterwards,

when I had risen to some eminence at the bar, and when I had also a seat in Parliament, on my return one day from Court, I found an old gentleman in my drawing-room, with his feet familiarly placed on each side of my Italian chimney-piece, and his whole air bespoke the consciousness of one who was quite at home. He turned round : it was my early friend and benefactor. I rushed into his arms, and burst into tears. Words cannot describe the scene that followed. "You are right, Sir, you are right ; the chimney-piece is yours ; the pictures are yours ; the house is yours ; all is yours : you gave me all, my friend, my father, my benefactor." He dined with me, and in the evening I observed the tear glistening in his fine blue eye, when he saw poor little Jack, the creature of his bounty, rising in the House of Commons to reply to a Right Honourable Member. Poor Boyce ! he is now gone : no one had a larger share of practical benevolence.

AN INDIAN.

At the battle of Freehold, during the first American war, a young English officer, closely pressed by two Abenakis Indians, with upraised hatchets, no longer hoped for life, and only resolved to sell it dearly. At the moment when he expected to sink beneath them, an old Indian, armed with a bow, approached him, and prepared to aim an arrow ; but having adjusted it, in an instant he dropped his bow, and ran to throw himself between the young officer and his assailants, who immediately retired with respect.

The old man took his prisoner by the hand, encouraged him by caresses, and conducted him to

his cabin. It was winter, and the Indians were retiring home. Here he kept him for some time, treating him with undiminished softness, and making him less his slave than his companion. At length he taught him the Abenakis language, and the rude arts in use among that people. They became perfectly satisfied with each other, and the young officer was comparatively happy ; except at times, when his heart was wrung to see the old man intently fix his eyes on him and shed tears.

At the return of spring, the Indians returned to arms, and prepared for the campaign. The old man, yet sufficiently strong to support the fatigues of war, set out with them, accompanied by his prisoner. The Abenakis made a march of more than two hundred leagues across the desert, till at length they arrived within sight of an English camp ; the old Indian pointed out to the young officer, at the same time contemplating him wistfully, " Behold thy brothers !" said he to him ; " behold where they wait to give us battle ! Hear me, I have saved thy life ; I have taught thee to make a canoe, bows, and arrows ; to obtain the means to make them from the forest ; to manage the hatchet, and to take off the scalp of an enemy. What wert thou when I took thee to my cabin ? Thy hands were those of a child ; they neither served to nourish or defend thee ; thy soul was in night ; thou knewest nothing ; thou owest me all. Wilt thou, then, be ungrateful enough to join thy brothers, and raise the hatchet against us ?"

The young Englishman vowed he would rather lose a thousand lives than spill the blood of one Abenakis. The Indian looked on his prisoner with earnestness, and, in a mingled tone of tenderness

and sorrow, inquired, "Hast thou a father?" "He was alive," replied the young man, "when I left my country." "Oh, how miserable he must be!" cried the Indian; and after a moment of silence, he added, "Knowest thou that I have been a father? I am so no more! I saw my child fall in the battle; he was at my side. I saw him die like a warrior: he was covered with wounds, my child, when he fell! But I have avenged him! Yes, I have avenged him." The Indian at pronouncing these words was much agitated; then, turning to the East, where the sun was just rising, he said to the young Englishman, "Seest thou that beauteous sun, resplendent of brightness? Hast thou pleasure in seeing it?" "Yes," answered he, "I have pleasure in seeing that beautiful sky." "Ah, well! I have it no more," said the Indian, shedding a torrent of tears. A moment after he showed the young officer a flowering shrub. "Seest thou that fine tree?" said he to him, "and hast thou pleasure in looking upon it?" "Yes, I have," he answered. "I have it no more," returned the Indian, with precipitation; but as for thee, go, return to thy country, that thy father may again with pleasure mark the rising sun, and behold the springing flower."

M. DE SENETAIRE.

The following anecdote is taken from a little volume, entitled, "Great Events from Little Causes," by M. Richer, who says he copied the story from some memoirs which casually fell into his hands.

Madeline de Senetaire, widow of Guy de St. Exuperi, retired, after the death of her husband, to the castle of Miraumont, where she determined to pass

the rest of her days in widowhood. She was not one of those women who, by an affected external decorum, endeavoured to conceal the irregularities of their private life ; but, ignorant of the artifices of vice, she only used that circumspection which virtue dictates ; and received the respectful homage of many of the young nobility, whom her beauty attracted to her.

There were several of them one day with her at the castle of Miraumont, when she saw Mental, the king's lieutenant of Limosin, who, at the head of some cavalry, was conducting several persons to prison, only because they were suspected to be Hugonots. Women are generally compassionate : Madeline de Senetaire could not see, without tender concern, these unfortunate people dragged to prison ; the more she viewed them, the more her compassion increased, insomuch that she conceived an ardent desire to relieve them ; and ruminating some time on the means to effect their release, she turned to the young noblemen who were with her, and said, " You complain that I never give you an opportunity of proving the sincerity of your desire to serve me ; I will now afford you the wished-for satisfaction. You must go with me to the deliverance of those poor creatures whom Mental hath loaded with chains, and is conducting to prison : they are men ; therefore let us consider what they suffer, not what they believe."

The nobles were ready in a moment, and, thus called upon, never thought of deliberating. The widow, dressed like an amazon, put herself at their head, led them against Mental, and, dispersing his troops, put them to flight and set the prisoners free. The king's lieutenant, enraged that a woman should

oblige him to abandon his prey, assembled above one thousand men, with which he besieged the castle of Miraumont. The spirited widow, however, sallied out with her forces, whom love rendered invincible ; and, falling upon Mental, he was again defeated, notwithstanding the superiority of his numbers. He now sought for shelter in a neighbouring castle, but before he could reach the place he received a shot which brought him from his horse, and he expired a few hours after. Henry III. being informed of the affair, gave orders to several officers to march with their troops and raze the castle of Miraumont to the ground. This news spreading throughout the province where Madame de Senetaire was greatly respected on account of her birth and virtues, all the gentlemen considered it their duty to assist her, and accordingly made her a tender of their services. In consequence of this, the officers who had orders to besiege the castle were afraid even to enter the province, and the lady remained in peace.

CHAPTER IV.

FAMILY CUSTOMS.

SECTION I.—COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

A LOVER'S GIFT.

IN the reign of Elizabeth, it was "the custome for maydes and gentlewomen to give their favourites, as tokens of their love, little handkerchiefs of about three or four inches square, wrought round about, and with a button or a tassel at each corner, and a little one in the middle with silke and thread; the best edged with a small gold lace, or twist, which being folded up in foure crosse foldes, so as the middle might be seene, gentlemen and others did usually wear them in their hats, as favours of their loves and mistresses; some cost sixpence a-piece, some twelve-pence, and the richest sixteen-pence." Of the gentleman's present, a lady in Cupid's Revenge, of Beaumont and Fletcher, says,—

" Given ear-rings we will wear,
Bracelets of our lover's hair,
Which they on our arms shall twist,
(With their names carved) on our wrists."

RINGS.

The ring used in the marriage contract is supposed to have originated with the Jews, and the

custom to have been adopted by the first Christians. The wearing the ring on the fourth finger was common to the Greeks, because, as Aul. Gellius informs us, they had discovered from anatomy that this finger had a little nerve that went straight to the heart, and therefore they esteemed it the most honourable, from its being connected with that noble part.

VALENTINE'S DAY.

Mr. Douce, a high authority in matters of this kind, states that the observance of this day on the 14th of February, is nothing more than a monkish corruption of a Roman custom on the feast of the Lupercal, in which the names of young women were put into a box, and drawn out by the men. The ministers of religion substituted the names of saints for those of females ; and he conjectures that St. Valentine's day was chosen for the new feast.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGES.

During the time of our Commonwealth, when the Established Church lost its authority and sanctity, it was customary for the bans of marriage to be proclaimed on three market-days in Newgate Market, and afterwards the parties were married at the church, or, as the register states, the place of meeting called the church. So saith the Register of St. Andrew, Holborn.

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS.

It was a prudent provision which our ancestors made in the indentures of tradesmen's apprentices,

that they should not contract matrimony during their apprenticeship. Doubtless, our forefathers were better acquainted with the advantages of frugality than we are. Hence we find them very careful to prescribe to their youth such rules and methods of frugality and good husbandry, as they thought would best conduce to their prosperity. Among these rules, this was one of the chief:—"That they should not wed, before they had sped." When a young tradesman in Holland or Germany goes a courting, the first question the young woman asks of him is, "Are you able to pay the charges?" That is to say, in English, are you able to keep a wife when you have got her? What a world of misery it would prevent, if the young women in all countries would stick to the wisdom of that question! "Marriage is not made of mushrooms, but of good round cakes," is another of the pithy sayings by which our ancestors conveyed the same great rule of prudence.

Cake is used at weddings because of its origin in *confarreation*, or as a token of the most firm conjunction between man and wife, with a cake of wheat or barley, from *far*, (Latin,) bread or corn. Dr. Moffat tells us, that "the English, when the bride comes from church, are wont to cast wheat upon her head." Herrick says, speaking to the bride :

" While some repeat
Your praise and bless you, sprinkling you with wheat."

In Yorkshire, the bridecake is cut in little square pieces, thrown over the bride and bridegroom's head, and then put through the ring nine times, and afterwards the cake is laid under pillows, at night,

to cause young persons to dream of their lovers. Mr. Douce says this custom is not peculiar to the North of England, but prevails generally.

The common people formerly broke a piece of gold or silver in token of a verbal contract of marriage, and promises of love, because one half might be kept with the woman, while the other part remained with the man. Gay, in his "What d'ye call it?" alludes to this practice:—

"Yet, Justices, permit us, ere we part,
To break this Ninepence, as you've broke our heart.

Filbert (*breaking the ninepence*)—As this divides, thus we are torn
in twain.

Kitty (*joining the pieces*)—And, as this meets, thus may we meet
again."

FLEET WEDDINGS.

The most serious evil formerly attending the Fleet Prison was the facility with which illicit marriages might be performed. Complaints having reached Parliament, a committee of inquiry was appointed, who, on investigating the subject, ascertained, on evidence, that from the 19th October, 1704, to 12th February, 1705,—2,954 marriages were celebrated in this way in the Fleet, without either license or certificate of bans, besides others that were known to be omitted. Twenty or thirty couple were sometimes joined in one day, and their names concealed by private marks, if they chose to pay an extra fee. The warden of the Fleet, Anthony Grindall, and his registrar of marriages, Robert Saunders, were proved before the committee to have forged and kept false books. But notwithstanding this inquiry and detection, the profit which the wardens made by the ille-

gal marriages was too great to induce them to relinquish so prolific a branch of revenue easily. A female correspondent, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in the year 1745, deploras the many ruinous marriages that were then every day performed in the Fleet, "by a set of drunken, swearing parsons, with their myrmidons, that wear black coats, and pretend to be clerks and registers to the Fleet, plying about Ludgate-hill, pulling and forcing people to some peddling alehouse or brandy-shop, to be married, and even on Sundays stopping them as they go to church." Pennant, also, at a later period, confirms this account of the daring with which the nefarious traffic was carried on. He says, in walking by the prison in his youth, he has been often accosted with, "Sir, will you please to walk in and be married?" and he states, that painted signs, containing a male and female hand conjoined, with the inscription, "Marriages performed within," were common along the building. A dirty fellow, outside, generally conducted you to the parson, a Bardolph-looking fellow, in a tattered night-gown, who, if he could not obtain more, would marry a couple for a glass of gin or a roll of tobacco, though he has sometimes been known to marry twenty or thirty couple at from ten shillings to one pound each. This glaring abuse, which continued so many years, to the ruin of children, and destruction of their parents, was only put an end to by the marriage act in 1753.

A CUMBERLAND WEDDING.

In Cumberland, and some other parts of the north of England, they have a custom called a bridewain,

or the public celebration of a wedding. A short time after a match is entered into, the parties give notice of it; in consequence of which the whole neighbourhood, for several miles round, assemble at the bridegroom's house, and join in all the various pastimes of the country. This meeting resembles the wakes or revels celebrated in other places; and a plate or bowl is fixed in a convenient place, where each of the company contributes according to his inclination, or the degree of respect the parties are held in; by which laudable custom a worthy couple have frequently been benefited with a supply of money, of from fifty to a hundred pounds. The following advertisement for such a meeting is copied from the *Cumberland Packet*.

“ Suspend for one day your cares and your labours,
And come to this wedding, kind friends and good neighbours.”

“ Notice is hereby given, that the marriage of Isaac Pearson with Frances Atkinson will be solemnized in due form in the parish church of Lamplugh, in Cumberland, on Tuesday next, the 30th May, inst. (1786); immediately after which, the bride and bridegroom, with their attendants, will proceed to Lonefoot, in the said parish, where the nuptials will be celebrated by a variety of rural entertainments.

“ Then come one and all,
At Hymen's soft call,

From Whitehaven, Workington, Harrington, Dean,
Hail, Ponsonby, Blaing, and all places between;
From Egremont, Cockermouth, Barton, St. Bee's,
Cint, Kinnyside, Calder, and parts such as these;
And the country at large may flock in if they please.
Such sports there will be as have seldom been seen,
Such wrestling and fencing and dancing between,

And races for prizes, for frolic and fun,
 By horses, and asses, and dogs will be run,
 That you'll go home happy—as sure as a gun.
 In a word, such a wedding can ne'er fail to please;
 For the sports of Olympus were trifles to these.

Nota Bene.—You'll please to observe that the day
 Of this grand bridal pomp is the thirtieth of May,
 When 'tis hoped that the sun, to enliven the sight,
 Like the flambeau of Hymen, will deign to burn bright.

“ BRIDEWAIN.

“ There let Hymen oft appear
 In saffron robe and taper clear,
 And pomp and feast and revelry,
 With mask and antic pageantry;
 Such sights as youthful poets dream,
 On summer eves by haunted stream.

“ George Hayto, who married Anne, the daughter of Joseph and Dinah Colin, of Crosby Mill, purposes having a bridewain at his house at Crosby, near Maryport, on Thursday, the 7th day of May next, (1789,) where he will be happy to see his friends and well-wishers, for whose amusement there will be a variety of races, wrestling-matches, &c. &c. The prizes will be—a saddle, two bridles, a pair of *gands d'amour* gloves, which, whoever wins, is sure to be married within the twelve months; and many other articles, sports and pastimes, too numerous to mention, but which can never prove tedious in the exhibition.

“ From fashion's laws and customs free,
 We follow sweet variety;
 By turns we laugh, and dance, and sing,
 Time's for ever on the wing;
 And nymphs and swains on Cumbria's plain
 Present the golden age again.”

SCOTTISH CEREMONIES.

The following customs, observes Sir Walter Scott, in his work on Demonology and Witchcraft, still linger in the south of Scotland :—

The bride, when she enters the house of her husband, is lifted over the threshold ; and to step on it, or over it, voluntarily, is reckoned a bad omen. This custom was universal in Rome, where it was observed as keeping in memory the rape of the Sabines, and that it was by a show of violence towards the females that the object of peopling the city was attained. On the same occasion, a sweet cake, baked for the purpose, is broken above the head of the bride ; which is also a rite of classic antiquity.

In like manner, the Scottish, even of the better rank, avoid contracting marriage in the month of May ; which genial season of flowers and breezes might, in other respects, appear so peculiarly favourable for that purpose. It was specially objected to the marriage of Mary with the profligate Earl of Bothwell, that the union was formed within this interdicted month. This prejudice was so rooted among the Scots, that, in 1684, a set of enthusiasts, called Gibbites, proposed to renounce it, among a long list of stated festivals, fast-days, popish relics ; not forgetting the profane names of the days of the week, names of the months, and all sorts of idle and silly practices which their consciences took an exception to. This objection to solemnize marriage in the merry month of May, however fit a season for courtship, is also borrowed from the Roman pagans ; which, had these persons been aware of it, would have been an additional reason for their anathema against the practice.

GRETNA GREEN.

This celebrated scene of matrimonial mockery is situated, as our readers are aware, in Dumfriesshire, near the mouth of the river Esk, nine miles north-west of Carlisle.

Mr. Pennant, in his "Journey to Scotland," speaks in the following terms of Gretna, or, as he calls it, Gratna Green. By some persons it is written Graitney Green, according to the pronunciation of the person from whom they hear it.

At a little distance from the bridge stop at the little village of Gratna, the resort of all amorous couples whose union the prudence of parents or guardians prohibits. Here the young pair may be instantly united by a fisherman, a joiner, or a blacksmith, who marry from two guineas a job to a dram of whiskey : but the price is generally adjusted by the information of the postilions from Carlisle, who are in pay of one or other of the above worthies : but even the drivers, in case of necessity, have been known to undertake the sacerdotal office.

This place is distinguished from afar by a small plantation of firs, the Cyprian grove of the place, a sort of land-mark for fugitive lovers. As I had a great desire to see the high priest, by stratagem I succeeded : he appeared in the form of a fisherman, a stout fellow in a blue coat, rolling round his mouth a quid of tobacco of no common size. One of our party was supposed to come to explore the coast : we questioned him about the price ; which, after eyeing us attentively, he left to our honour. The church of Scotland does what it can to prevent these clandestine matches, but in vain ; for these famous cou-

plers despise the fulmination of the kirk, and excommunication is the only penalty it can inflict.

The "Statistical Account of Scotland" gives the following particulars :—

The persons who follow this illicit practice are mere impostors—priests of their own creation, who have no right whatever either to marry or to exercise any part of the clerical function. There are, at present, more than one of this description in this place ; but the greatest part of the trade is monopolized by a man who was originally a tobacconist, and not a blacksmith, as is generally believed. He is a fellow without literature, without principles, without morals, and without manners : his life is a continued scene of drunkenness. His irregular conduct has rendered him an object of detestation to all the sober and virtuous part of the neighbourhood. Such is the man, and the description is not exaggerated, who has had the honour to join, in the sacred bands of wedlock, many people of great rank and fortune, from all parts of England. At the lowest computation, about sixty are supposed to be solemnized annually in this place.

By the canons and statutes of the church of Scotland, all marriages performed under the circumstances usually attending them at Gretna Green are clearly illegal ; for, although it be in that country a civil contract, and although it may be performed by a layman, or a minister out of orders ; yet, as in England, bans or license are necessary ; and those who marry parties clandestinely are subject to heavy fine and severe imprisonment. Therefore, though Gretna Green be just out of the limits of the English marriage act, that is not sufficient, unless the forms of the Scottish church are complied with.

The following narratives, connected with this famous place, have been furnished by a recent writer in *Chambers's Edinburgh Journal* :—

Not long ago, a gentleman who had settled somewhere in Scotland arrived at Springfield, and spent an hour or two in one of the inns, chiefly, I believe, from motives of curiosity. He was accompanied by his daughter, a very beautiful and interesting creature, though not more than seventeen or eighteen years of age. Neither father nor daughter had ever crossed the Sark before, and they were both more than ordinarily curious to know every thing about Scotland and Scotch marriages. In particular, they expressed a wish to see the blacksmith, not doubting that a true son of Vulcan, with a begrimed face and leathern apron, would pop in upon them, and demand their pleasure. But here they were speedily undeceived ; and when Mr. Elliott arrived, the gentleman endeavoured to be as witty as possible, stating, among other things, that he wished to introduce a young lady, that she might know both her man and the way back again. To this Mr. E. answered drily, that he had known as unlikely things come to pass ; and in less than four months the same young lady actually came before him, and was married to one of her father's ploughmen. In point of looks, the bridegroom and bride seemed formed for one another ; and the jocular priest, who from the first recognised his old acquaintance, ventured to hint, after dinner, that surely Mr. ——— would not be angry with his fair daughter for proving herself so apt a scholar, and profiting by the lesson he had himself taught. But, alas ! the blow fell so heavily on the poor Cumbrian, that it at first threatened to break his heart, or unsettle his understanding. The lovely and light-hearted Bea-

trice was the apple of his eye, the stay and pride of his maturer years ; and so far from wishing to match her with a common clown, there were few even of the better class of yeomen that he deemed worthy of aspiring to such an honour. In the course of time, however, the old man's wrath gradually gave way to better feelings ; a farm was taken for his son-in-law, and stocked and plenished nobody knew how ; and, if report may be credited, the praiseworthy conduct of both the young people is likely to lead to a complete and permanent reconciliation.

On another occasion, a middle-aged gentleman arrived from the south of England, and was united to a lady considerably his junior in years and appearance, and who, very unfortunately, happened to be the sister of his former wife. The veteran bridegroom was in high spirits, scattered his money very freely, and seemed so well satisfied with the accommodations of the place that he was in no haste to retire from the scene of his second nuptials. At length, however, the carriage was ordered to the door ; and just as the sun was sinking in the west, and, by the agency of the clouds that congregated around the falling monarch, intersecting the broad expanse of the Solway with many a beautiful zone of light, the happy pair bade adieu to Springfield, and, with a degree of haste not at all requisite in their situation, made the best of their way to merry England. Nor had they left the inn above an hour or so, when a second chaise-and-four drove up, and discharged a fresh cargo of lovers, younger, and fairer, and better matched, but neither so wealthy nor so prodigal as the first. And who, reader, might the second pair

be? who but a handsome, well-favoured youth and the only daughter of the former bridegroom, who, in revenge for her father's frailty and folly, had yielded to the entreaties of an honest yeoman, who had wooed her long and loved her dearly. The spirited young lady had no objection whatever to a stepmother, but a stepmother and an aunt in the same person formed a species of relationship utterly irreconcilable with her notions of propriety; and as she was determined to change her residence at any rate, she thought it just as prudent to change her condition at the same time.

On arriving at Carlisle, the father found a letter awaiting him at the inn, marked "In haste," and revealing to him the secret of his daughter's elopement; and not doubting that the parties had gone on the same errand as himself, he immediately ordered fresh horses, and hurried back to Gretna Green. The carriages, in fact, must have met on the road; but the night being dark, neither party was aware of the presence of the other; and though the Yorkshire proprietor reached Springfield before his daughter and her lover had departed, he was unfortunately a stage too late. Much and loudly he bragged and bullied, and fain would he have carried his daughter along with him, but the yeoman refused to part with his bride; and when the other threatened to disinherit his child and proscribe her husband, he very coolly replied, that, as matters stood, the connexion was none of the most respectable; that he knew the value of a good wife, though without a guinea, or a friend to take her part; that, in a moderate way, he could do his own turn as well as the purse-proud gentleman he was addressing; and that, as to the rest, he would trust to Providence and his own industry.

“Nobly spoken,” roared the exhilarated priest; “and faith, let me tell you, Jonathan Oldbuck, if I had known you were after marrying your wife’s sister, I would rather have thrust my fingers in the fire than welded metals of such an opposite nature. The lines are now your own property; but if you’ll restore the bit of plain paper, I’ll hand you over every note, and wash my hands of the whole business.” But to this condition the Yorkshireman demurred; and, perceiving that matters could not be mended, he left the apartment and the village too, “growling all the while like a Russian bear.”

MATRIMONIAL EXACTIONS IN THE DIOCESES OF ST. ASAPH AND BANGOR.

It was formerly the custom “in the said dyosses, that every man and woman, when they shall be marryed, shall yeld unto the curate the xth part of all ther goods, as wel the woman as the man, or else to fyne therefore; and this as often as a man or a woman shall happen to marrye. As, yf a man chaunce to bury his wife, or the woman her husband, aboute Mydsomer, and then payeth all his tythes belonginge to harveste, as of haye and corne, and then incontynente after harveste happen to marye, both the man and the woman shall paye the 10th agayne, notwithstandinge their late tythinge at harveste. And, besides all this, they shall pay a certain some for their bodyes the day of their maryage; but whoso lyst to lyve in adultery, then his fyne is but two shillings by the yeare to the ordenary, the which causeth matrymony to be little set by, and much refused in these partes. It is said lyke customs to be used in some places in the dyosses of St. David and Landaff.”

FRANCE.

In 1559, the people of France were married at the door of the church. When Elizabeth of France, daughter of Henry II., was married to Philip II. of Spain, Eustache de Bellay, Bishop of Paris, performed the ceremony at the church-door of Notre Dame. It was then thought indecent for them to grant permission, in the church itself, for a man and woman to lie together.

ITALY.

In some of the Italian states, marriages were not permitted between persons professing different religions. A woman of forty years of age was not allowed to be united to a man under thirty; if she exceeded forty, her husband must be at least thirty-five: a man above sixty was not to marry a woman whose age was less than thirty. A widow was not allowed to alter her condition in less than six months after her widowhood.

LACEDÆMON.

The Lacedemonians were very remarkable for their severity against those that deferred marrying, as well as those who wholly abstained therefrom. No man among them could live single beyond the time limited by their lawgiver without incurring several penalties: one of these was, the magistrates commanded such, once every winter, to run round the public forum quite naked; and, to increase their shame, they sang a song, the words of which aggravated their crime, and exposed them to ridicule.

RHODES.

The Rhodians had a peculiar custom of sending for the bride by the public crier. When they arrived at the bridegroom's house, they found a sumptuous entertainment prepared for them, the intent of which was to make the marriage public, and to show respect to the gods. During the time of their entertainment a boy, covered with thorn-boughs and acorns, brought a basket full of bread, and sang, "I have left the worse and found the better," signifying how much the married state was preferable to the single.

GERMANY.

The ancient Germans carried their respect for the fair sex so far, that the price for baring the arms of a free woman, against her wish, was fifteen shillings. If a man had the temerity to touch her bosom, he was fined forty shillings ; and a kiss snatched from a female was punished with exile.

POLAND.

The Poles, in their marriage contract, did not inquire what a girl's portion was, but how many relations she had, it being the custom of all the relations to give the bride something at her wedding ; nor was it looked upon discreditable among them for the female to propose a match, which was always done through the medium of relations.

DALMATIA.

In Dalmatia, the principal motive of alliance was the ambition of being related to a numerous and

powerful family, famous for having produced valiant men : and a story is told of one Janco Vojrod, of Sebigne, who was betrothed to Jagna, of Temeswar, whose brothers not being his friends, when he came to conclude the marriage, engaged him in the punctilio of performing certain feats, upon the condition that if he succeeded he was to have the bride ; if not, he was to lose his life. He was to pierce an apple stuck on the point of a spear with his dart ; to spring over nine horses, placed one beside the other, at one leap ; and to discover his future spouse among nine young women, all veiled. Janco's expedient to discover his wife was singular : he spread his mantle on the ground, then a handful of gold rings on it, and addressed the ladies as follows : " Lovely maid, who art destined to be Janco's wife, do thou pick up these golden rings and wear them ; but any other who dares to take them, I will cut off her arm at a blow." The nine young women were afraid, and did not advance ; so Janco's bride collected the rings, and thus the nuptial games were finished.

CHINA.

On the appointed day for the celebration of the nuptials in China, the bride is put in a sedan, which is magnificently adorned with festoons of artificial flowers ; and her baggage of clothes, ornaments, and trinkets, are carried after her in chests, by her servants, with lighted flambeaux, though it be noonday. The sedan is preceded by music, and followed by the relations and friends of the bride : the nearest relative carries in his hand the key of the sedan, for the windows of it are grated 'up and locked, and gives it to the bridegroom as soon as the procession reaches

his house, who waits at his door in order to receive her. As this is the first interview between them, it is easy to conceive with what eager curiosity he opens the door of the sedan. It sometimes happens that he is dissatisfied with his lot, when he immediately shuts the door again, and sends her back to her friends, choosing rather to lose his money than be united to a person he does not like : this, however, is seldom the case.

In Europe we generally unite families by the marriage of the living, yet that harmony is sometimes disturbed by the quarrels of the parties. In China they do things in another way, by which the married parties themselves can never disagree ; for in one of the interior provinces, Shausi, if two friends happen to lose, the one a son, and the other a daughter, unburied at the same period of time, which is not unfrequent, since they frequently keep the bodies at home for a year or two, then the parents agree to marry them. They send the usual presents, with much ceremony and music ; after which the two coffins are placed together, and the wedding dances celebrated before them. These ceremonies performed, they are then laid in the same tomb ; and the families are thenceforward considered as related.

ALGIERS.

Among the Algerines, fond lovers and their mistresses explain their several impulses by the manner in which they dispose of a parterre, a nosegay, made in a certain form, containing as many tender and passionate ideas as a letter of several pages. The flower, gentle, placed by a violet, hopes to meet with a return of love ; the orange-flower denotes hope ; the mari-

gold, despair; the amaranth, constancy; the tulip reproaches with being unfaithful; the rose is but an encomium of beauty, &c.; by which means a tolerable language is formed.

MORAVIANS.

Miss Hamilton, says Hannah More, told us a pleasant anecdote of Hulton, the Moravian, who had the honour of being occasionally admitted to the royal breakfast table. "Hulton," said the King to him one morning, "is it true, that you Moravians marry without any previous knowledge of each other?" "Yes, may it please your majesty," returned Hulton, "our marriages are quite royal."

CIRCASSIA.

Klaproth, speaking of the Circassians, says that when a young man designs to marry, he does not communicate his intention to his parents, lest they should disapprove his choice and prevent the match. In general, however, the parents themselves seek out for him a wife suitable to his rank and fortune. In this case, the ceremony of betrothing soon takes place; but the marriage is deferred, so that the parties have frequently to wait from four to six months, nay, sometimes even a whole year. Till the consummation of the nuptials, the bridegroom is not suffered upon any account to see or speak to the bride, neither is she allowed to see him. It is also considered indecorous for the bridegroom to be seated in the presence of the bride's parents; even if he has been sitting before their entrance, he rises; neither must he enter into conversation with them until he is actually married to their daughter.

GREECE.

Webster, in his "Travels through the Crimea, Turkey, and Egypt," thus describes the solemnization of a marriage according to the Greek rite, which he witnessed :—

A temporary altar was raised, on the right of which were the men, and on the left were the women. The bride and bridegroom both wore crowns. The bride was dressed as a girl—her head without cap or kerchief, her hair hanging down behind in a long plaited tail, and flowers over her forehead. Both bride and bridegroom held a candle. The priest presented a tumbler of wine to the lady, which she, crossing herself, tasted, and handed to her future lord. This was repeated thrice, and the last time the bridegroom emptied the glass. The priest then tied the left hand of the man to the right hand of the woman, and led them thrice round the altar, stopping each time, and the people chanting. He then took off the crowns, which they kissed; and, the husband having thrice embraced his wife, the ceremony was finished.

The bride now, accompanied by all the females, retired into a corner, where she put on the dress of a married woman; her hair was bound up—a handkerchief, worn only by the married, tied over it, and the whole habiliment changed.

In the mean time, the bridegroom stood smiling and looking up as if he knew not how to look. He then received a carved and gilded picture of the nativity: holding which before him, and attended by his wife, he set out, the spectators following in his train.

The following account of a Greek marriage is given by a modern traveller, and was written at Cephalonia :—

The bride, a pretty girl of two or three and twenty, dressed in all her finery, was waiting for the bridegroom ; and the villagers, in their holiday clothes, (you cannot imagine a more picturesque costume than that of a Greek peasant,) were dancing to the pipe and drum. The bridegroom was to arrive from a village at some distance, and scouts were on the look-out to give due notice of his approach. First came a courier to the bride with a letter, though neither could read or write : she rewarded him with a cake in the form of a ring, which he threw over his musket, for they are all armed. As soon as the bridegroom was discovered, a running fire was kept up by those on the watch, till he arrived at the destined place, when he saluted his bride, and they danced till the hour that the church was prepared for the ceremony. The priest, with his robes beautifully embroidered, his beard nearly reaching to his knees, conducted them to the altar, which stood in the centre of the church, and gave them lighted tapers to hold, which they retained during the whole of the ceremony. After repeating the prayer prescribed by the Greek church, and administering the sacrament, he blessed two rings, and put them on the fingers of the new-married couple ; this done, he admonished them on the new state of life they had entered into ; during which time the brideman and bridemaïd kept continually changing the rings on the fingers of the new-linked pair : next, crowns of plaited riband were placed on their heads, which were interchanged in the same manner as the rings.

A white veil, denoting purity, was then spread over the heads of both, and thus they marched three times round the altar, and behind them followed a young boy holding each by the skirt, to mark their wishes for male progeny ; the priest then scattered the incense, and sprinkled the assembled multitude. The bride mounted her mule, took leave of her relations, and departed with the bridegroom, preceded by a pipe and tabor, and followed by musketry ; symbolic, I imagine, of the marriage state ; preceded by harmony, and followed by noise and dissention.

As the following account furnishes us with additional particulars, it may gratify the reader to insert it :—

At Boudja, a village near Smyrna, I attended a Greek marriage with considerable interest. The ceremony in the church seemed interminably long, and the mumbled prayers and nasal singing (for all the Greeks in this part, whether in or out of church, when they sing, will sing through the nose) were not very amusing. Both bride and bridegroom wore a wreath of flowers round their heads, which was pretty and classical : these wreaths of flowers were exchanged and re-exchanged many times in the course of the ceremony. They had also two nuptial rings, one on the hand of the bridegroom, and one on the bride's, which were slipped from the one to the other very frequently, the bride now wearing her own, now her husband's, and so on.

The procession returned from the church to the bridegroom's house, preceded by music, instrumental and vocal, and followed by all the Greeks of the

village. This procession closely resembled those we see represented in sculpture and on ancient vases, and which refer to the customs of the Greeks two or three thousand years back. Immediately on her arrival at the house, the young bride took her place on a sofa in the corner of the room, and there sat with downcast eyes as immovable as a statue, taking no part whatever in the amusements that were going on, and never even uttering a word, except in a whisper, to some female relative, or dear female friend. She retained the bridal wreath of flowers, over which was hung, very gracefully, a veil of rose-coloured gauze, which fell on either side her head, leaving her face exposed, and reaching her girdle. Besides the coloured veil and the wreath, she was further distinguished as a bride by a long bunch of gold tinsel cut into slips, which was attached to her hair, and dropped down as a gaudy ringlet on either side her neck.

The merry company immediately began to dance, and continued from noon till midnight. The room was soon very crowded. Every one, as he went in, advanced to the bride, whose lap was duly hollowed for the reception, and gave her a piece of money, more or less, according to the visitor's circumstances or generosity. The bride deposited the money in a small silver box, but neither opened her lips nor raised her eyes. Meanwhile the dance never ceased, or paused but for a minute, new performers supplying the places of such as were fatigued, and keeping up the strange Romaika, the favourite dance of all the Greeks, waving, winding, and interwaving their handkerchiefs. When the musicians gave symptoms of flagging, or talked of being tired, some spirited Palikari would step out of the circle of the

dance, take a bright *rubich*, a small thin Turkish coin, from his pocket, wet it between his lips, and then, with a smart exclamation, stick it on the forehead of the head performer. This recipe, generally washed down by a draught of wine, never seemed to fail; and on they sawed and bawled with increased vigour. The instrumental music was always accompanied by one voice, of whose beauty not much could be said.

What most struck me was the automaton-like passiveness of the bride, who was young, handsome, and naturally lively. But there she sat in the midst of all this dancing, music, merriment, and gossip, close in the corner, like a statue in its niche, without motion, or giving a sign that the busy noisy scene before her reached either of her senses. And during three days, for so long is the marriage festival kept up, was she to persist in this unnatural, forced position of stupid decorum, amidst the joyfulness of those who were called together only to celebrate her own happiness! This forced delicacy and decorum, and submissiveness on the part of the young bride, must have been mainly borrowed by the Asiatic Greeks from their masters the Turks.

In the evening, about an hour after the candles had been lighted, the wedding repast was served up. This, in truth, was frugal enough; it consisted of a large dish of *keskake*, a Turkish dish, made of underground wheat, mixed with a little maize, butter, &c., which, among the oriental Greeks, as well as the Turks, is always eaten at weddings; and of a large bowl of *pilaff*, or boiled rice, in which was some mutton hashed. All the females present partook of the hymeneal banquet, except the bride, who tasted nothing, in the upper room, the scene of the dancing,

on the floor of which, a carpet being spread, they sat down in the oriental style. They drank no wine. The men retired to a room below, with the bridegroom, who helped them to the same condiments as had been served up stairs ; and their repast was finished by the circulation of the wine-cup, in which the health and happiness of the new-married couple were drunk, with the usual wish or prayer, never omitted by the Greeks, that no evil eye or other bad influence might interfere with the happy consummation of the nuptials.

As soon as the repast was finished—and it occupied scarcely a quarter of an hour—the carpets were withdrawn, and the dances re-commenced. During a pause in the dancing, two young men and two young women amused the company with singing.

In the course of the evening the old Agha of the village came in with two of the Turks of his guard. He quietly seated himself on a low chair in a corner of the room, had his pipe lighted, and commenced a process of silent smoking, which he hardly interrupted by a word, except “*Atesh*,” fire ! when his pipe went out, during the two hours he honoured the Greeks with his company. His guards, two young *Yebecks*, or mountaineers, from the interior of Asia Minor, stood near the door, with dilated eyes and open mouths, wondering, no doubt, at the liberty of the Greek women, but evidently delighted with the joyous scene.

I was informed by a young lady, an European, present, that the Agha had furnished the materials for the wedding feast. This looked paternal and pretty, but not so the context—he was to receive a large portion of the money presented to the bride by her friends and visitors ! As, besides nearly

all the peasants of the village, many respectable young Greeks from Smyrna were present, and all the Franks who had country houses there, went, or sent a few piastres, the old Turk must have been a considerable gainer by the transaction.

This marriage was celebrated, as they nearly all are, on a Sunday. On the Monday and Tuesday following, the same amusements were kept up ; the bridegroom and his friends, male and female, making processions through the village, with music and dancing. The bride was not allowed to go out of the house until the Sunday following.

AMERICA.

There have been many elaborate works published on the marriage ceremonies of various nations, both savage and civilized. I do not, however, says a writer in the *Monthly Magazine*, remember to have read of any so brief and unceremonious as the following, which I had the opportunity of witnessing when on a visit to a gentleman in Carolina. A fine-looking negro, and the handsomest mulatto, or yellow girl, I had ever seen, were the parties who desired to be made one for life. The matter was thus arranged:—In the course of our evening walk, my friend, the planter, was sheepishly addressed by the slave in these words : “ Please, Massa, me want to marry Riddiky ;” this is the “ niger ” for Eurydice. “ Does Riddiky wish to marry you ? ” “ Yes, Massa.” “ If you marry her, I won’t allow you to run after the other girls on the plantation ; you shall live, like a decent fellow, with your wife.” “ Massa, me lub her, so that me don’t care for de oder gals.” “ Marry her, then.” “ Yes, Massa.” Washington then gave Rid-

diky a kiss, and from that day they became man and wife; no other form than that of permissiom from their owner, thus graciously accorded, being considered necessary to legalize their union.

AMERICAN INDIANS.

An American Indian courtship must have afforded a strange contrast to the European mode : the savage who is not married, goes to a girl who is not married either, and says to her, without preface or circumlocution, " Will you come with me and be my wife ?" She makes no immediate answer, but meditates some time, holding her head between her hands. While she is considering what to say, the man holds his head between his hands also, and remains in profound silence. After the girl has thought a while, she says, " Netho," or " Niaoua," which signifies, " I agree." The man thereupon rises, and says, " One," that is, " Well, it is done." At night the woman takes a hatchet, cuts a burden of wood, and carries it to the hut of the savage.

Marriage ceremonies, observes an intelligent writer, vary in different countries, and at different times. Where the practice is to purchase a wife, whether among savages or pampered people in hot climates, payment of the price completes the marriage, without any further ceremony ; and the highest bidder is always sure of the preference. We read that, in ancient Rome, the bride was attended to the bridegroom's house with a female slave, carrying a distaff and spindle, importing that she ought to spin for the family. Among the savages of Canada, and

of the neighbouring districts, a strap, a kettle, and a faggot, are put in the bride's cabin, as symbols of her duty ; namely, to carry burdens, to dress victuals, and to provide wood. On the other hand, the bride, in token of her obedience, takes her axe, cuts wood, bundles it up, and lays it before the door of the bridegroom's hut : all the salutation she receives is, " It is time to go to rest."

THE EAST.

Among the ancients, especially in the East, every one that came to a marriage-feast was expected to appear in a handsome and elegant dress, which was called the wedding-garment. This was frequently a white robe ; and when the guest was a stranger, or was not able to provide such a robe, it was usual for the master of the feast to furnish him with one : and if he who gave the entertainment was of high rank and great opulence, he sometimes provided marriage-robcs for the whole assembly. To this custom we have allusions in Homer and other classic writers : and there are some traces of it in the entertainments of the Turkish court at this very day ; for, at the entertainment given by the Grand Vizier to Lord Elgin and his suite, in the Palace of the Seraglio, pelisses were given to all the guests. It must be remarked, also, that it was in a very high degree indecorous and offensive to good manners, to intrude into the festivity without this garment.

PERSIA.

Marriages in Persia are occasions of great, and almost ruinous, display. The period of feasting oc-

cupies from three to forty days, according to the condition of the parties. Three are necessary for observing the established forms. On the first, company are assembled ; on the second, the bride's hands are stained with henna ; on the third, the rite takes place. Perhaps an account of a marriage in middle life, as it actually occurred, may explain the nature of the ceremonies better than any detail.

As the men have (the bridegroom in this instance was a widower of advanced age) seldom an opportunity of choosing a wife by sight, they are forced to employ some female friend to select a suitable partner ; and to her they must trust for all that appertains to mental or personal charms. The choice being made, and the gentleman satisfied, he sends a formal proposal, together with a present of sweetmeats, to the lady ; both of which, it is previously understood, will be accepted. This point being gained, he next forwards an assortment of fine clothes, shawls, and handkerchiefs, bed-clothes and bedding, looking-glasses, glass and china-ware, bathing and cooking apparatus, henna for her hands, sugar and comfits ; in short, a complete domestic outfit ; all of which it is understood the bride's family will double, and return to the future husband. A day is fixed for fetching home the bride ; when a crowd of people collect at both houses, the gentlemen at the bridegroom's, the ladies at that of the bride. The latter next proceed to complete the duties of their office, by conducting the young lady to the bath ; where, after a thorough ablution, she is decked in her finest attire. As soon as it is dark, the bridegroom's party proceed to bring her to her new habitation ; and much discussion sometimes arises at this stage of the business, as to the number of lanterns,

of fiddlers, and guests, that are to marshal the procession.

On reaching the bride's house, it is usual, before she mounts, to wrap her in a shawl provided by the husband. This, again, is often a point of dispute. On the present occasion, the lady's friends objected to the indifferent quality of the shawl; those of the gentlemen's party, on the other hand, declared that it was excellent. Neither would give in: the guests were all waiting, and the affair assumed a serious aspect; when one of the visitors stepped forward, and volunteered his own. It was accepted, and the cavalcade proceeded; the bride being accompanied by a great number of persons, and attended by a boy bearing a looking-glass. At intervals on the road, bridges are made in the following manner for her to step over: gentlemen of the husband's party are called upon by name, and must place themselves on their hands and knees on the ground, before her horse; and the choice generally falling on corpulent, awkward individuals, much mirth is excited. In this way the party proceeds, with fiddling, drums beating, tamborine playing, and lanterns flourishing, till they meet the bridegroom, who comes to a certain distance in advance; and this distance is the subject of another very serious discussion. As soon as he sees the lady, he throws an orange or some other fruit at her with all his force; and then off he goes towards his house. This is the signal of a general scamper after him; and whosoever can catch him is entitled to his horse and clothes, or a ransom in lieu of them.

When the bride arrives at the door, a man of either party jumps up behind her, and, seizing her by the waist, carries her within. Should this be done

by one of the bridegroom's attendants, it is an omen of his maintaining in future a due authority over his wife ; but, on the contrary, should one of her friends succeed in performing the duty—and it is always the subject of a sharp contest—it augurs that she will in future keep “ her own side of the house.” Another effort at insuring the continuance of his own supremacy is often made by the gentleman ; who, on reaching his own domicile after throwing the orange, takes a station over the portal, that the lady, on entering, may pass under his feet ; but if discovered in this ungallant attempt, he is instantly pelted from his post.

When, at length, she has prepared for her reception, the husband makes his appearance ; and a looking-glass is immediately held up in such a position as to reflect the face of his bride, whom he now, for the first time, sees unveiled. It is a critical and anxious moment, for it is that in which the fidelity of his agents is to be proved, and the charms of his beloved to be compared with those pictured by him in his ardent imagination ; while the young ladies in attendance, as well as the gossiping old ones, are eager to catch the first glimpse, and communicate to all the world their opinion of her claims to beauty. After this, the bridegroom takes a bit of sugar-candy, and, biting it in halves, eats one himself, and presents the other to his bride. On the present occasion he had no teeth to bite with, and so he broke the sugar with his fingers, which offended the young woman so much that she cast her portion away. He then takes her stockings, throws one over her left shoulder, places the other under his right foot, and orders all the spectators to withdraw. They retire accordingly, and the happy couple are left alone.

Such are the honours of a Persian wedding in middle life ; and they are varied, no doubt, by the circumstances or disposition of the parties ; but the expense is always great, and, as we have said, sometimes ruinous.

It will be seen, by the following extract from the *Gentleman's Magazine*, that the ladies of the East have secured to themselves a privilege analogous to that said to be possessed by our own countrywomen in leap-year :—

In Persia a feast was held in February, dedicated to the angel Isfendarmuz, who was esteemed the ostensible guardian of the fair sex ; and on this occasion they enjoyed some very singular privileges. The Persian ladies, on this day, were invested with almost absolute power. The husbands complied, to the utmost of their ability, with all the commands of their wives ; and the virgins, without offence to delicacy, might pay their addresses to whom they pleased ; and they seldom sued in vain. Numberless marriages were, in consequence, solemnized, and many engagements made ; the angel being supposed to shed remarkable favour not only on the nuptials then celebrated, but on all the contracts entered into during this gay festival.

ARMENIA.

The ceremonies attending an Armenian marriage are very curious. They are much too long and tedious to be given in detail, but I will endeavour to point out some of their most amusing peculiarities. The Armenians, who are an industrious,

thrifty, and quiet people, are very numerous in Turkey : they are Christians, but divided into two classes ; the most numerous adhering to the doctrine of the old Armenian church, or what is termed the heresy of Eutyches ; and the minor class professing the religion of the church of Rome. The account of a marriage which I propose to give of course applies only to the former class.

These Armenians keep their wives and daughters as much apart from all male society as the Turks do theirs. When abroad, their women are veiled and muffled up, so as to be distinguished from the Turkish fair only by the different colours of their slippers and robes. Indeed, the whole of their domestic economy, excepting in not admitting of a plurality of wives, and their manner of living, differ in scarcely any thing from those of the Turks. Courtship and attachment before marriage are, therefore, things unknown among them.

When a young man is to be married, his mother selects the bride ; and matters being arranged between the two families, an interchange of presents ratifies the treaty and forms the betrothal. The nature of these presents is strictly regulated by ancient law and usage ; and each present, as it passes, is blessed by a priest.

After two days of feasting and ceremony, on the morning of the third day the bridegroom, accompanied by all his relatives and friends, goes to fetch his bride from her father's house to his own. On their meeting, the father-in-law presents him with a bright new watch, and his mother-in-law and her nearest relations hang pieces of gold tinsel to his calpack, or great hat. He is then introduced to his bride, who sits immoveable on a low sofa in a

corner of the room, and so completely covered with dresses, that not so much as the point of a finger or of her slipper is visible. A thick white linen veil, only used on this solemn occasion, and called a *perkem*, is thrown over her head; and over this again is thrown another veil, composed of tinsel and thin lamina of gold, or sheets of gilt paper. The only part of the bride left uncovered is her hair: this flows down, and, joined to a mass of false hair, rests upon the sofa.

The officiating priest raises the bride from the sofa, leads her, blindfolded as she is, to the centre of the room, and there, pronouncing a blessing over them, places her hand in that of the bridegroom. All present then form in order of procession. A priest goes after, carrying a lighted torch, then follows the bridegroom, and the march is closed by the bride, who, unable to see her way, is led by two female relatives. On arriving at the bridegroom's house, the bride is smoked with incense, burning in a silver dish, and then sprinkled with rose-water. After this, she is led into an inner room, and left alone with the females.

The bridegroom proceeds to another apartment, where a barber is ready to shave him. As the Armenians shave all their head, like the Turks, this is rather a long process. When it is finished, the priest produces his wedding-suit of clothes, and blesses each article as he presents it. As soon as the happy man is attired, he is re-conducted to his bride, who then rises from the sofa; and after being enveloped by the matrons in an immense shawl called a *duvac*, or coverall, advances to meet him in the middle of the room.

There the priest again joins their hands, and knocks

their foreheads gently together. Two assistant priests then place in the centre of the apartment a table, on which are two wax lights, like the torches of Hymen in the ceremonial of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The priests then chant some passages from the gospel in Armenian. While this chanting proceeds, one of the family holds a large crucifix over the bridegroom and bride, who again touch foreheads, and so continue to lean against each other. When the priest has done singing, he produces two silken strings precisely alike, each being made of a thread of white silk, interwoven with a thread of rose-coloured silk. The first of these he ties round the brow of the bridegroom, immediately over whom the crucifix is then held, and puts these singular questions, making a solemn pause between each.

“If she is blind, thou acceptest her?”

“If she is lame, thou acceptest her?”

“If she is hump-backed, thou acceptest her?”

The bridegroom’s brief response is, “I accept.”

The priest then ties the second silken string round the head of the bride, who at the moment stands under the crucifix, and says,

“Thou acceptest?”

Her answer is, “I accept.”

On this all present shower small pieces of money on the couple, the cross is waved triumphantly over their heads, the priests again chant, the wax torches are extinguished, and the pair are man and wife.

The husband and all the men then quit the apartment. During their absence the matrons remove the duvac, and some of the robes, under which the bride is almost suffocated. At a given signal the husband is re-admitted, the matrons withdraw the

linen veil, and then for the first time he sees the features of his wife. He is, however, only favoured with a glance. All the company are admitted ; and though the linen veil is not again drawn, her head is covered with the tinsel and gold sheets. All the females invited to the festival then approach the sofa where the bride is seated, kiss her, and put some present into her hand. After this, all her male relations, to the remotest degree, are permitted to raise the tinsel, and gaze for a moment at the bride's face, and to kiss her hand, into which every one of them puts a present. A feast then commences, and, with a series of eastern amusements, in which there is little variety, continues for three days with scarcely any interruption. All this time the bride remains mute and motionless on the sofa. It would be the height of indecorum for her to speak a word, even a whisper, to any other person than an old matron, sometimes her nurse, who has accompanied her from her paternal roof. The Armenians, who are generally a frugal, abstemious people, eat and drink immoderately on these occasions. Many of the dishes are regulated by old laws.

Towards the conclusion of the third day, the principal officiating priest repairs to the bride, and having summoned the bridegroom to his presence, he with great solemnity removes the silken string which he had tied round the head of each, and carries away the tinsel veil which had hitherto concealed the lady's features.

After this, the wife is left, for the first time, with her husband, and permitted to speak ; but, according to the old laws, she is not to open her lips for a whole twelvemonth in the presence of her mother-in-law or her married sister-in-law. The ancient Arme-

nian rescript is positive on this head ; and though the harsh rule is now, at least at Constantinople, relaxed in practice, the young wife must maintain a show of profound respect and absolute submission to her husband's relatives.

Perhaps no people in the world are more attached to their old national laws and usages than the Armenians. A custom, if it is ancient, has with them the force of a religious dogma, and is as much venerated. Even the marriages of the poor are not relieved from these ceremonials ; but as the poor cannot afford the means, the Armenian church and the rich of its communion come to their aid, and lend the robes, dresses, &c., and furnish materials for the long feast, rather than suffer their old customs to be infringed. Every Armenian church has a depot of pots and pans, plates and dishes, to lend to the poor on these occasions.

ARABIA.

The marriage ceremony among the Arabs is in general very simple. Negotiations commence with the father of the maiden, who usually consults the wishes of his daughter, and if her consent is gained the match takes place. The marriage day being appointed, perhaps five or six days after, the bridegroom comes with a lamb in his arms to the tent of his betrothed, and there cuts the animal's throat before witnesses ; and as soon as the blood falls upon the ground, the ceremony is regarded as completed. It is accompanied with feasting and singing ; all the guests present must eat bread and meat ; for this is a circumstance absolutely necessary on such occasions. The form of betrothing

differs in different tribes ; sometimes the friend of the lover, holding the girl's father by the hand, merely says before witnesses, " You declare that you give your daughter as wife to ——." Among the Bedouins of Sinai, the father of the bride gives to the suitor a twig of a tree or shrub, or something green, which he sticks in his turban and wears for three days, to show that he has taken a virgin in matrimony. The betrothed is seldom made acquainted with the change that is to take place in her condition. On returning home in the evening with the cattle, she is met at a short distance from the camp by her future spouse and a couple of his young friends, who carry her by force to her father's tent. If she entertains any suspicion of their designs, she defends herself with stones, and often inflicts wounds on the assailants, though she has no dislike to the lover ; for the more she struggles, bites, kicks, cries, and strikes, the more she is applauded ever after by her own companions. Sometimes she escapes to the neighbouring mountains, and several days elapse before the bridegroom can find her ; her female friends, meantime, being apprized of her hiding-place, furnish her with provisions. When brought to her father's tent, she is placed in the women's apartment, where one of the young men immediately throws over her an abba in the name of her future husband ; and this is often the first time she learns who the person is to whom she is betrothed. She is then dressed by her mother and female relations in her wedding suit, which is provided by the bridegroom ; and being mounted on a camel ornamented with tassels, shreds of cloth, she is conducted, still screaming and struggling in the most unruly manner, three times round the

tent, while her companions utter loud exclamations. If the husband belong to a distant camp the women accompany her, and during the procession decency obliges her to cry and sob most bitterly. These lamentations and struggles continue after marriage ; and sometimes she repeats her flight to the mountains, refusing to return until she is found out.

Marriages are generally solemnized on the Friday evenings, and the contracts are drawn up by the *cadi* : if the bride be a widow, or a divorced widow, it is attended with little ceremony and rejoicing. This sort of connexion is always reckoned ill-omened ; no resistance is made, no feast takes place, no guest will eat of the nuptial bread ; for forty days the husband will not taste provisions belonging to his wife ; and visitors, when they come to drink coffee, bring their own cups, because to touch any vessel belonging to the newly-married widow would be considered the sure road to perdition. Sheiks and rich citizens display more splendour in their dresses and entertainments. The bride is decked out in the finest attire, perfumed with essences, and every part of her body painted with figures of flowers, trees, houses, antelopes, and other animals. Instead of receiving a marriage portion, the husband pays for his wife : the sum varies according to rank and circumstances. Among the Arabs of Sinai it is from five to ten dollars ; but sometimes thirty, if the girl is handsome and well connected. At Mecca, the price paid for respectable maidens is from forty to three hundred dollars ; (8*l.* 15*s.* to 65*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* ;) and on the borders of Syria, young men obtain their masters' daughters by serving a number of years. Part of the money only is laid down, the rest standing over as a kind of debt, or as a security in case

of divorce. The price of a widow is never more than half, generally but a third, of what is paid for a virgin.

RUSSIA.

The following account of the actual marriage ceremony, between a couple in good circumstances, is principally derived from a detailed account given in Dr. Granville's "St. Petersburg."

At the appointed time, a large number of friends of the parties having previously assembled in the church, the priest, attired in rich vestments, and attended by a deacon, proceeded down the church from the altar to the door, where he received the candidates for matrimony. After he had delivered to each a lighted taper, and made the sign of the cross three times on their foreheads, he conducted them to the upper part of the nave. The bride was attended by young ladies in splendid dresses, and incense was scattered before them as they advanced. The priest, as he went, recited a litany, in which the choristers assisted, and, at its conclusion, halted before a table, on which the rings were deposited: then, turning towards the altar, with the bride and bridegroom behind him, he repeated a short and very impressive prayer, or invocation. After this, he turned round to the couple and blessed them; and then, taking the rings from the table, gave one to each, proclaiming, in a loud voice, that they stood married to each other, "now and for ever, even unto ages of ages." This declaration he repeated three times, the bride and bridegroom exchanging rings at each declaration. The rings were their

again surrendered to the priest, who, after having crossed the foreheads of the young couple with them, placed them on the fore-finger of the right hand of each. He then again turned towards the altar, and read another impressive part of the service, in which allusion is made to all the passages of the Bible in which a ring is mentioned as the symbol of union, honour, and power.

After this, the priest took both parties by the hand, and led them towards a silken carpet, which lay spread upon the ground. This is, to the mass of the spectators, a moment of the greatest interest ; for it is firmly believed that the party which first steps upon the carpet will have the mastery over the other throughout life. "In the present instance," says Dr. Granville, "the bride secured possession of this prospective advantage with modest forwardness."

Two silver imperial crowns were then produced by a layman, and received by the priest, who, after blessing the bridegroom, placed one of these ornaments upon his head ; the other was merely held over the bride's head, in order that the superstructure raised by a fashionable hair-dresser of St. Petersburg might not be deranged.

After the crowning, a cup was brought to the priest, who, after drinking from it himself, gave it to the bridegroom, who took three sips, and then delivered it to the bride, by whom the same ceremony was repeated. After a short pause, other prayers were recited ; and these being concluded, the priest took the pair by the hand, and walked with them three times round the desk, reciting some sentences. Then, taking off the bridegroom's crown, he said, "Be thou magnified, O bridegroom, as Abraham!

Be thou blessed as Isaac, and multiplied as Jacob ; walking in peace, and performing the commandments of God in righteousness."

In removing the bride's crown, he said, " And be thou magnified, O bride, as Sarah ! Be thou joyful as Rebecca, and multiplied as Rachel ; delighting in thine own husband, and observing the bounds of the law, according to the good pleasure of God."

After this, the tapers were extinguished, and taken from the bride and bridegroom, who were then dismissed by the priest with his blessing, and received the congratulations of the company, and saluted each other. Dancing and feasting continues for three days after the wedding ; and on the eighth day the parties again repair to the church, when the priest performs the ceremony of " dissolving the crowns," with appropriate prayers, in allusion to the rites of matrimony.

Calmuck women ride better than the men. A male Calmuck on horseback looks as if he were intoxicated, and likely to fall off every instant, though he never loses his seat ; but the women sit with more ease, and ride with extraordinary skill. The ceremony of marriage among the Calmucks is performed on horseback. A girl is first mounted, who rides off at full speed. Her lover pursues ; and if he overtakes her, she becomes his wife, returning with him to his tent. But it sometimes happens that the woman does not wish to marry the person by whom she is pursued, in which case she will not suffer him to overtake her ; and we are assured, says Dr. Clarke, that no instance occurs of a Calmuck girl

being thus caught, unless she has a partiality for her pursuer.

Purchase, in his "Pilgrims," tells us, that if, in Muscovy, the women are not beaten once a week, they will not be good, and therefore they look for it weekly ; and the women say, that if their husbands did not beat them they should not love them.

EGYPT.

The Moslem marriages in Egypt are always regulated by the elder females, the bridegroom seldom seeing the bride till the day of their union. It is merely a civil contract between their mutual friends, and signed by the young man and his father. There is a procession, consisting of many persons, male and female, who accompany the young lady to the house of her future husband, where she is received by her companions. As soon as the ceremony is performed, the women raise a shout of congratulation, which is repeated at intervals during the entertainment that follows. After this burst of joy they make another procession through the streets, the females all veiled ; and a person, mounted on a horse richly caparisoned, carries a red handkerchief, fixed to the end of a pole, after the fashion of a military banner. They then return to the house, where they pass the remainder of the day and part of the night in feasting, looking at dancing-girls, and listening to singing-men.

Mr. Browne, who witnessed the marriage of the daughter of Ibrahim Bey, describes it in the following terms :—

A splendid equipage was prepared, in the European form, being a coach drawn by two horses, and ornamented with wreaths of artificial flowers, in which a beautiful slave from the harem, personating the bride, (whose features were very plain,) was carried through the principal streets of Cairo. The blinds of the coach were drawn up, and the fair deputy sat concealed. The procession was attended by some boys, several officers and Mamlouks, and ended at the house of the bridegroom, who received her from the carriage in his arms. In general, at Cairo, the bride, who is completely veiled, walks under a canopy, supported by two women, to the house of the bridegroom. The females marry at fourteen or fifteen, and at twenty are past their prime.

LAPLAND.

The Lapland marriage customs are very remarkable and ludicrous. When a young man has made choice of a female, he employs some friends as mediators with the girl's parents. The negotiators being supplied with several bottles of brandy, proceed therewith to the hut of the girl's father, accompanied by the suitor; but he is not allowed to enter until the liquor is drunk, over which they discuss the proposal. The lover is then called in, and entertained with such fare as the hut affords, but without seeing his mistress, who on this occasion is obliged to retire. When he has obtained permission to pay his addresses to the girl in person, he goes home, dresses himself in his best attire, and returns to the hut. When his mistress makes her appearance, he salutes her, and presents her with the tongue of a rein-deer, a piece of beaver's flesh, or some kind of provision.

The girl at first declines the offer, it being in the presence of her relations.

When the lovers have agreed, he is allowed to visit his mistress as often as he pleases, but each time he must bring a bottle of brandy, a perquisite so agreeable to the girl's father, that, for the sake of it, he will often postpone the celebration of the nuptials for a year or two. At length the ceremony is performed at the nearest church ; but even after this the bridegroom must serve his father-in-law a whole year ; at the expiration of which he retires to his own habitation with his wife, and receives presents from his friends and relatives. From this time he sequesters his wife from the company of all strangers, especially of the male sex, and watches over her conduct with the most jealous vigilance.

CAFFRELAND.

The mode of courtship and marriage among the Caffres differs little from that of other savages : the bride is bought by a number of cattle : the negotiation is more or less obstinate, according to circumstances. After all is adjusted, the betrothed pair are brought to receive the nuptial exhortation from the chief of the troop, who reminds the bride that he is happy to see her so respectably united ; and that "from this time it will be her duty to manage the domestic concerns of her spouse with zeal and activity. He exhorts her particularly to labour in cultivating the earth ; and in general to conduct herself as becomes an excellent wife, that she may give no occasion of complaint." In return for this exhortation, the bride makes her humble thanks to the chief for his

sage advice, and returns to her company, by whom she is attended.

The bridegroom, in his turn, steps forward before the great man, to receive his admonition: "Since at this time thou quittest the cabin of thy father to establish thyself at the head of thine own, govern it as a man should do; comport thyself in such a manner, that not only thy wife and thy children may never feel any deficiency of meat and of milk for their support, but that thou mayest be able also to receive thy chief in a suitable manner whenever he may visit thee, and that thou mayest be able to pay him the tax which belongs to him."

These addresses are delivered in public assembly; the enclosure in which the cattle are secured by night serving for the prætorium and tribunal of this supreme magistrate. The marriage is complete, if the bride drinks a portion of milk, presented to her on this occasion; the whole group of witnesses exclaiming, "She drinks the milk!"

MOROCCO.

Marriage, amongst the Moors, is brought about by the intervention of friends; no interview whatever can take place previously to the nuptials. The good or bad qualities of the lady are explained to the lover, and also her abilities and personal charms. Love, that rare ingredient in Moorish marriages, may sometimes be found subsequent, but cannot be known previously to matrimony.

On the evening of the wedding the lady is placed on horseback, in an enclosure which resembles a large paper lantern; in this way she is paraded through the streets to the house of the bridegroom,

by the male friends of both parties. Rude music, the shouts of the rabble, and the firing of powder, assail the ears of the bride, whose union and introduction to her husband are coeval.

The validity of the marriage contract depends on the same proofs as those required by the Levitical law ; but the lady may be returned for less material defects than their absence, or the husband is at liberty to take another wife if he please. It is to meet the difficulties arising from a total want of prior acquaintance between the parties, that the law of Mahomet allows a plurality of wives to those who can prove they are able to maintain them. Barrenness is a ground of divorce, as likewise a repugnant breath ; for both of which causes women in Barbary are often repudiated.

VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

In the island of Java, the bride, in token of subjection, washes the bridegroom's feet ; and this is a general ceremony. Formerly, in Russia, the bride presented to her future master a bundle of rods, to be used against her when she deserved to be chastised. The late Empress, however, discontinued that practice among people of fashion. A curious custom prevailed in Sierra Leone and its neighbouring districts, anterior to the formation of our existing settlement there. In every town there was an establishment, where all the *fair*—we mean the *young*—ladies, as they became marriageable, were educated for a year under the care of a venerable old gentleman, who carried them, when their education was completed, in their best attire, to a public assembly. This might be termed a kind of matrimonial market ;

because there the young men also assembled in order to make their choice. Those who suited themselves to their fancy not only paid the dowry to the parents, but also rewarded the old superintendent for his extraordinary care in the young lady's education, and likewise for his assistance in making the bargain.

SECTION II.—SOCIAL CUSTOMS.

SIR B. DRAKE.

The following curious anecdote shows how tenacious men were formerly of the heraldic distinctions of their own families, even in our own country. The family of the Drakes, of Ashe, in Devonshire, was very ancient and honourable, and first seated at Exmouth, in the same county, where there had been no less than ten successions, all of the name of John. Sir Bernard Drake, in the reign of Elizabeth, was a great courtier, and a brave naval commander. He was a person of so high a spirit, that he gave the famous Sir Francis Drake, who was not related to him, a box on the ear for assuming his arms, which were a wivern displayed, gules. This being reported to the Queen, she was so provoked as to give a new coat to Sir Francis, and for his crest, a ship on a globe held by a cable with a hand out of the clouds, and in the rigging, hung up by the heels, a wivern with wings displayed, gules; of which, when she asked Sir Bernard his opinion, he boldly answered, "Madam, though you could give him a finer, yet you could not give him an ancients coat than mine."

THE NORMANS.

The use of coats of arms, says Dr. Henry, distinguished one great family from another, and descending from father to son, appears to have been introduced into Britain about the same time with family surnames, and by the same noble Normans. The Anglo-Saxon warriors adorned their shields and banners with the figures of certain animals, or with other devices; but, in doing this, every particular person followed his own fancy, without any regard to the figures or devices that had been borne by his ancestors. But, about the time of the first croisades, greater attention began to be paid to these devices, when it was discovered that they might be useful, as well as ornamental. "About this time (says the learned Camden) the estimation of arms began in the expeditions to the Holy Land; and afterwards, by little and little, became hereditary; when it was accounted most honourable to carry those arms which had been displayed in the Holy Land, in that holy service, against the professed enemies of Christianity." Justs and tournaments, the favourite diversions of the great and brave in this period, contributed not a little to render arms hereditary. For a noble son, proud of the honours that had been gained by an illustrious father in those fields of fame, delighted to appear with the same devices on his shield at the like solemnities. It was only, however, by slow degrees, and in the course of almost two centuries, that this custom became constant and universal, even in noble families.

The earliest seals bearing shields of arms, known in England, are those of John Earl of Morton, afterwards King John, and Gervase de Pagenal, A. D. 1187.

M'QUILLAN.

We suspect that the following statement in an Irish periodical, must be intended partly to show the strange tales of that country, and partly to ridicule the antiquity of families :—

Rory Oge M'Quillan, of Dunluce Castle, could trace his family from their departure from Babylon, three thousand years ago, whence they came to Scotland, and being called Chaldeans, gave origin to the corruption of the word Caledonians : the M'Quillans afterwards removed to Ireland.

MR. ROGER.

An anecdote is told of Mr. Roger, of Werndee, in Monmouthshire, which exhibits the pride of ancestry in a striking point of view. His house was in such a state of dilapidation, that the proprietor was in danger of perishing under the ruins of the ancient mansion, which he venerated even in decay. A stranger, whom he accidentally met at the foot of the Skyrrid, made various inquiries respecting the country, the prospects, and the neighbouring houses, and, among others, asked, "Whose is this antique mansion before us?" "That, Sir, is Werndee, a very ancient house ; for out of it came the Earls of Pembroke of the first line, and the Earls of Pembroke of the second line ; the Lords Herbert of Cherbury, the Herberts of Coldbrook, Ramsey, Cardiff, and York ; the Morgans of Acton ; the Earl of Hunsdon ; the houses of Ircowm and Lanarth, and all the Powells. Out of this house, also, by the female line, came the Duke of Beaufort." "And pray, Sir, who lives there now?" "I do, Sir."

"Then pardon me, and accept a piece of advice : come out of it yourself, or you'll soon be buried in the ruins of it."

JAMES I.

A young girl was presented to James I. as an English prodigy, because she was deeply learned. The person who introduced her, boasted of her proficiency in ancient languages. "I can assure your Majesty," said he, "that she can both speak and write Latin, Greek, and Hebrew." "These are rare attainments for a damsel," said James ; "but pray, tell me, can she spin?"

LORD ABERCORN.

The Marquis Abercorn determining, at least in his own arrangements, to obtain punctuality from his visitors, invited a large party to dinner. The card mentioned five o'clock precisely.

His Lordship found himself attended at that hour by a single gentleman : he, however, sat down to dinner, and partook of the first course. About six, his visitors began to drop in ; his Lordship was at dinner. No apology was made ; they seated themselves in awkward confusion, looked at their watches, and took dinner. The still more polite part of the assembly arrived about seven, and instead of dinner, were complimented with *coffee*.

A FARMER'S SERVANT.

A farmer observing his servant a long time at breakfast, said, "John, you make a long breakfast."

"Master," answered John, "a cheese of this size is not so soon eaten as you would think of."

A SCOTCH LADY.

A prudent, and somewhat parsimonious old lady, who lived in one of the most romantic western islands of Scotland, being at certain seasons strongly beset with calls from strangers, adopted the following expedient with her morning visitors, which she found to be an infallible recipe for preventing their longer stay. Having placed before her guests the materials of an ample Highland breakfast, she would remark towards the conclusion of the meal—"Pray make a good breakfast, for there is no saying where you may get your dinner."

ANTHONY AND CLEOPATRA.

A young Greek, who had heard of the feasts made by Anthony and Cleopatra, and who was staying at Alexandria to study physic, had the curiosity to assure himself with his own eyes about them. Having been admitted into Anthony's kitchen, he saw, amongst other things, eight wild boars roasting whole at the same time; upon which he expressed surprise at the great number of guests that he supposed were to be at the supper. One of the officers could not forbear laughing, and told him, that they were not so many as he imagined, and that there would not be above a dozen in all; but that it was necessary every thing should be served in a degree of perfection, which every moment ceases and spoils. "For," added he, "it often happens that Anthony will order his supper, and a

moment after forbid it to be served, having entered into some conversation that diverts him. For that reason, not one, but many suppers are provided, because it is hard to know at what time he will think fit to have it set on table."

MODES OF SALUTATION.

Greenlanders have none, and laugh at the idea of one person being inferior to another.

Islanders near the Philippines take a person's hand or foot, and rub it over their face.

Laplanders apply their nose strongly against the person they salute.

In New Guinea, they place leaves upon the head of those they salute.

In the Straits of the Sound they raise the left foot to the person they salute, passing it gently over the right leg, and thence over the face.

The inhabitants of the Philippines bend very low, placing their hands on their cheeks, and raise one foot in the air, with the knee bent.

An Ethiopian takes the robe of another, and ties it about him, so as to leave his friend almost naked.

The Japanese take off a slipper, and the people of America their sandals in the street, and their stockings in the house, when they salute.

Two Negro kings on the coast of Africa salute by snapping their middle finger three times.

The inhabitants of Carmene, when they would show a particular attachment, open a vein, and present their blood to their friend as a beverage!

If the Chinese meet after a long separation, they fall on their knees, bend their face to the earth two or three times, and use many other affected modes.

They have also a kind of ritual or academy of compliments, by which they regulate the number of bows, genuflections, and words to be spoken upon any occasions. Ambassadors are said to practise these ceremonies forty days before they appear at court.

The common salutation in the southern provinces of China, amongst the lower orders, is, "*Ya Fan ?*" "Have you eaten your rice?"

In Otaheite they rub their noses together in salutation.

SECTION III.—DEATH AND BURIAL.

A BRAZILIAN WOMAN.

A Jesuit one day, says Southey, in his "History of Brazil," found a Brazilian woman, in extreme old age, almost at the point of death. Having catechised and instructed her, as he conceived, in the nature of Christianity, he began to inquire whether there was any food which she could take; "Grandam," said he, "if I were to get you a little sugar now, or a mouthful of some of our nice things which we get from beyond sea, do you think you could eat it?" "Ah, my grandson," said the old woman, "my stomach goes against every thing. There is but one thing which I think I could touch. If I had the little head of a little tender Tapaya boy, I think I could pick the bones; but woe is me."

This story alludes to the early settlement of the Jesuit Missionaries in South America, when they found the Indians with an almost incurable attachment to cannibalism.

MR. BALDWIN.

In the church register at Lymington, we find the following entry :—“ In the year 1736, Samuel Baldwin was interred without ceremony.” It appears that the deceased had left express orders to be buried incognito, to thwart his wife, who had declared she would dance over his grave.

J. G——E, ESQ.

In the will of John G——e, Esq., who died at Lambeth a short time since, is the following very remarkable clause :—“ Whereas, it was my misfortune to be made very uneasy by Elizabeth G——e, my wife, for many years from our marriage, by her turbulent behaviour ; for she was not content with despising my admonitions, but she contrived every method to make me unhappy ; she was so perverse in her nature, that she would not be reclaimed, but seemed only to be born to be a plague to me. The strength of Sampson, the knowledge of Homer, the prudence of Augustus, the cunning of Pyrrhus, the patience of Job, the subtlety of Hannibal, the watchfulness of Hermagenes, could not have been sufficient to subdue her ; for no skill or force in the world could make her good ; and as we have lived separate and apart from each other eight years, and she having perverted her son to leave and totally abandon me, therefore I give her one shilling only.”

ISAAC GREENTREE.

On a tomb-board in the church-yard of Harrow-on-the-Hill, to the memory of Isaac Greentree, the

visitors are shown the following lines, written by the late Lord Byron, when a pupil in the school of that place :—

“Under these green trees, rising to the skies,
The planter of them, Isaac Greentree, lies;
The time will come when these green trees shall fall,
And Isaac Greentree rise above them all.”

MR. JACKETT.

Mr. Jackett, one of the principal clerks belonging to Messrs. Fuller and Co., died suddenly at the Royal Exchange, in the year 1789, and left the following will, which was proved in Doctors' Commons :—

“I give and bequeath,
(When I'm laid underneath,)
To my two loving sisters most dear,
The whole of my store,
(Were it twice as much more,)
Which God's goodness has granted me here.
And that none may prevent
This, my will and intent,
Or occasion the least of law racket,
With a solemn appeal,
I confirm, sign, and seal,
This, the true act and deed of

WILL JACKETT.”

MARQUIS OF CONYNTHAM.

The marquis of Conyngham succeeded in 1796 to the large estates of his uncle, who was supposed to have died intestate. The following extraordinary particulars of the after-discovery of the will are mentioned in “Nichols's Anecdotes :”—The remarkable

manner in which it came to light was found related in the following memorandum of General Valancey, made in his "Green Book," which contained an historical account of manuscript and printed documents relative to Ireland, and was sold at the sale of the general's library :—" Mr. Burton Conyngham had free access to my library in my absence, leaving a receipt for such books as he took out. I was absent six years on duty in Cork harbour, leaving the care of my house in Dublin to a servant-maid ; this book was taken by Mr. C., and a receipt on a slip of paper given, which the servant put into a book on the shelf. She was some time after discharged, and another hired. On my return, at the expiration of six years, I missed this book. In about two years, taking down the octavo in which Mr. B.'s note had been carefully deposited, the receipt fell out. Mr. Conyngham was dead, and died as was supposed, intestate ; and his great estate devolved upon Lord Conyngham, his nephew. I produced the receipt, and demanded the book, or the payment of 200*l*. The book was not to be found ; with others it had been packed in boxes, and sent to an auction ; not sold, but brought back. At length Mr. A. Cooper, of the Treasury, who had the care of Mr. C.'s affairs, by long search, discovered the book, when, on opening it, Mr. C.'s will fell out, by which it appeared that the estate was divided between Lord C. and his mother."

CHAPTER V.

FAMILY BREACHES.

SECTION I.—DISSENTIONS.

A SCOTCHMAN AND HIS LADY.

IN 1731, *The Gentleman's Magazine* stated the following very curious facts :—

William Crawford, janitor of the High School at Edinburgh, somewhat in years, having been thrice proclaimed in the kirk, went thither with his friends, and stood some hours expecting his bride. At last he received a ticket from her in these terms : “ William, you must know I am pre-engaged. I never yet could like a burnt cuttie [a burnt-out tobacco-pipe]. I have now by the hand my sonsy menseful strap-per, with whom I intend to pass my days. You know old age and youth cannot agree together. I must then be excused, if I tell you I am not your humble servant.” The honest man, not taking it much to heart, only said, “ Come, let us at least keep the feast on the feast-day ; dinner will be ready, let us go drink, and drive away care : may never a greater misfortune attend an honest man.” Back to dinner they went, and from the company convened, the bridegroom got one hundred marks, and all charges defrayed ; with which he was as well satisfied as he who got Madam.

GOLDSMITH.

While Goldsmith was completing the closing pages of "The Vicar of Wakefield" in his garret, he was roused from his occupation by the unexpected appearance of his landlady, to whom he was considerably in arrears, with a long bill for the last few weeks' lodgings. The poet was thunderstruck with surprise and consternation: he was unable to answer her demands, either then or in future. At length the landlady relieved him of his embarrassment, by offering to remit the liquidation of the debt, provided he would accept her as his true and lawful spouse. His friend, Dr. Johnson, happened to come in at the time, and by advancing him a sufficient sum to defray the expenses of his establishment, consisting of only himself and dirty shirt, relieved him from his matrimonial shackles.

AN ENGLISHMAN AND A LADY.

Most of our readers will recollect the anecdote of the eccentric Mr. Harvest, who forgot the day on which he was to be married. It appears he was not singular in this respect; for Holman, in his "Travels through Russia," relates the following fact:—

At the English church at St. Petersburg, a few years since, a wedding party had assembled, and were waiting for the clergyman, when the bridegroom, whispering to the bride that he wished to step out for an instant, quitted the chapel. The clergyman soon after made his appearance, but the bridegroom was not to be found; and, after waiting about two hours, the party were about to return to their homes without the ceremony being performed. It proved

that the gentleman had gone out with the view of asking an old and particular friend to be father to the bride ; but, being a broker, had, unfortunately, instead of entering at once on the subject of his visit, commenced with a point of business, which so absorbed him as entirely to put the more immediate concern out of his head, so that he literally forgot his bride, and all the promised happiness he had been so near realizing. The ceremony was, however, performed on the following day, to the surprise of many of the ladies ; who declared that, after such neglect, they would have rejected such a husband *in toto*.

A NEGRO COUPLE.

We have seldom seen a wife advertised in a more affectionate manner than the following. It is from an American paper :—

Notice :—Fourteen years ago I took to wife Patience, of the tribe of Dan. As we both were of African origin, and a deep jetty black, it never entered my head that my wife would have *patience* to listen to the persuasions of a swarthy Indian. Not long ago, however, the peace of my family began to be disturbed by one Jim, of that race ; and at length Patience followed him, carrying with them the main part of my estate, viz., bed and bedding, great and little wheel, bed-cord, steel-yards, and spider. I have since been active in endeavouring to regain her affections, together with my property : I have bought a shawl of beautiful colours to tempt her : I have piped to her, but she would not dance ; I have mourned with her, but she would not weep : and, finally, I am persuaded that she will never be restored to me ; and, therefore, to save the wreck of my estate, I hereby

forbid all persons harbouring or trusting the said Patience on my account, as I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date.

MR. AND MRS. GRIFFIN.

In 1734, the following circumstance took place in Lincolnshire :—

It was the wedding-day of Mr. and Mrs. Griffin—the actual, not the anniversary, wedding-day ; and the jocund bridegroom, bride, and their guests, were assembled about noon in the drawing-room, when a servant entered, and said, a gentleman had called, and anxiously wished to speak to Mr. Griffin ; that he was waiting below stairs, and would not come up, because he came on particular business. Mr. G. begged his company to excuse him for a few minutes, and quitted the room. One hour elapsed—no bridegroom ; two hours—he did not appear ; three, four—there were no indications of his return. The bride's mind misgave her, and the hymeneal guests became much alarmed. The servants, one and all, declared they had seen their master and the gentleman who had so unexpectedly arrived walk into the garden, whence they had not returned. Now, a high brick wall, in which there was no outlet, and over which no person could climb except by a ladder, enclosed the garden, which, when searched, was found empty ; whilst at the same time it was clear that Mr. Griffin, and his friend, “the gentleman,” could not have walked back, and passed through the hall-door, without being, from its situation, seen and heard by the servants in the kitchen. Time, however, fled ; year after year passed over, and Mr. Griffin did not reappear : no ! and although his lady lived to be nearly

ninety years of age, she never gained any tidings of the spouse thus so mysteriously spirited away.

MR. STACKPOOLE AND HIS HOUSE-KEEPER.

A few years since there resided in Grosvenor-place a Mr. Stackpoole, a man of fortune, and a middle-aged bachelor. He had a housekeeper, a woman of such excellent conduct and amiable manners, that, after living with him some years, he determined to make her his wife. Preparations were accordingly made for the wedding, and it was fixed to take place on the Monday following : but, on the previous Saturday, the lady left the house in her usual manner, to go to market for the family, and never after returned ; nor, though Mr. S. lived thirty years afterwards, could he, by advertisements, or by any other means, ascertain what had befallen her.

A CANADIAN COUPLE.

Some time since, in a town in Canada, a happy pair were joined in wedlock by a facetious township squire, whose fees totally exhausted the funds of the bridegroom. Not many days, it appears, had elapsed, before the parties, who had been joined "till death should them part," became mutually dissatisfied with their lot, and returned to the squire, with their many tales of woe, beseeching him, with all their eloquence, to *unmarry* them ; which he agreed to do, provided he was previously paid three dollars, double the fee of the first ceremony. This sum the bridegroom had earned by a week's labour on the esquire's farm. Then came the ceremony of parting. The

esquire placed a block on the floor, on which was put a live cat : one pulled the head, and the other the tail, while the esquire, with an axe, severed the cat in twain, at the same time exclaiming, " Death hath parted you." The couple departed, with a firm belief that the performance was strictly legal, and did not live together afterwards.

AN UNHAPPY COUPLE.

Wife, (reading a newspaper.)—My dear, I very often read in the papers of *imported, exported, transported*, &c. ; now, what do they mean ?

Husband.—My love, imported means what is brought into this country ; exported means what is sent out of this country ; transported means, in one sense, the same as exported, &c., otherwise of joy, pleasure, &c. Now, my chick, an example : if *you* were exported, *I* should be transported !

A GLASGOW COUPLE.

Some little time ago, a pair of turtles, seemingly anxious to become united in the silken bands of wedlock, made their appearance before one of the city clergymen of Glasgow ; who, finding the requisite certificates all right, proceeded with the ceremony till he came to that part of it where the question is put to the bridegroom, if he " is willing to take this woman to be his wife ?" To this necessary question, the man, after a considerable hesitation, answered, " No." " No !" said the minister, with a look of surprise, " for what reason ?" " Just," said the poor embarrassed simpleton, looking round for the door, " because I've ta'en a *scunner* [disgust] at

her." On this the ceremony, to the evident mortification of the fair one, was broken off, and the parties retired. A few days after, however, they again presented themselves before his reverence; and the fastidious bridegroom having declared that he had got over his objection, the ceremony was again commenced, and proceeded without interruption, till a question similar to the above was put to the bride, when she, in her turn, replied by a negative. "What is the meaning of all this?" said the clergyman, evidently displeased at the foolish trifling of the parties. "Oh, naething ava," said the blushing damsel, tossing her head with an air of resentment, "only I've just ta'en a *scunner* at him!" They again retired to their lonely pillows; and lonely it would seem they had found them, for the reverend gentleman, on coming out of his house the following morning, met the foolish couple once more, on their way to solicit his services. "It's a' made up, noo," said the smiling fair one. "Oh yes," said her intended, "it's a' settled noo, and we want you to marry us as soon as possible." "I will do no such thing," was the grave and startling reply to the impatient request. "What for?" cried the fickle pair, speaking together, in a tone of mingled surprise and disappointment. "Oh, naething ava," said his reverence, passing on his way, "but just I've ta'en a *scunner* at ye baith!"

A FATHER AND HIS SON.

A mulatto youth one day called on a respectable gentleman of Baltimore, and, with tears in his eyes, begged for assistance. "My father and mother," says he, "are about to sell me to Georgia." "Your father and mother!" replied the gentleman, with

surprise ; what right have they to sell you ?” “ My father,” answered the boy, “ is a white man, Mr. —, a merchant in this place. My mother is a yellow woman. She has had several children by him, all of whom have been sold to Georgia, but myself. He is this moment bargaining with a slave-trader for me.” The gentleman promised his assistance, but too late ; the bargain was already made. The unfortunate youth was immediately borne off, in spite of tears, execrations, and entreaties, handcuffed, and chained, and driven like a brute to a distant market.

COUNTESS OF CUMBERLAND.

In “ Hays’s Female Biography,” published in 1803, we are told, that by the side of the road between Penrith and Appleby, appears an affecting monument of the filial gratitude of Ann Clifford, countess of Pembroke, Dorset, and Montgomery ; on this spot she had last parted with a beloved mother, a separation she was accustomed to recall to her mind with tender sorrow, and in commemoration of which, she erected a pillar, its base a stone table, known by the name of “ Countess Pillar,” on which were engraved her arms, a sun-dial, and the following inscription :—

“ This pillar was erected in the year 1656, by Ann, Countess Dowager of Pembroke, for a memorial of her last parting in this place with her good and pious mother, Margaret, Countess Dowager of Cumberland, on the 2nd of April, 1615. In memory whereof she hath left an annuity of four pounds, to be distributed to the poor of the parish of Brougham, every 2nd day of April for ever, upon the stone table placed hard by. LAVS DEO!”

SECTION III.—DEATH.

A COUPLE IN SWEDEN.

Fahlun, in Sweden, a few years since, witnessed an incident which partakes of the romantic. In opening a communication between two mines, the body of a young miner was found in a state of complete preservation, being impregnated with the vitriolic water of the mine ; when exposed to the open air it became stiff.

The features were not recognised by any person present : but tradition had preserved the recollection of the accident by which he had been buried in the bowels of the earth more than half a century ago.

All further inquiry was dropped : when, suddenly, a decrepid old woman, leaning on her crutches, advanced, and discovered that the party was a young man to whom she had been engaged by promise of marriage, fifty years before !

She threw herself on the body of her former lover, and bedewed it with many tears ; fainting with joy to have again beheld the object of her affection before she descended to the tomb.

The contrast between these parties, one of them buried during fifty years, yet preserving all the features of youth ; the other, bending beneath the load of years, and living, if she could be said to live, during an equal space of time, above ground, may be conceived, but cannot be described.

SIR JOHN PRYSE.

Mr. Pennant relates, in his "Tour in Wales," that the late Sir John Pryse, Bart., of Newtown-

Hall, in Montgomeryshire, was a gentleman of worth, but of strange singularities. He married three wives ; and kept the two first, who died in his room, one on each side of his bed ; his third declined the honour of his hand, till her defunct rivals were committed to their proper place.

A WOMAN IN WALES.

Some years ago a woman lived in a village in Glamorganshire, whose husband, with the little fortune he got with her, bought a small farm ; he had hardly closed the purchase when death closed his eyes ; however, not intimidated by this, the widow married a second husband, who sowed it ; he likewise died ; and she tried a third, who reaped it, but death soon snatched him away. She then married a fourth, who threshed it, but he also followed the fate of his predecessors ; and she then married a fifth husband, with whom she enjoyed the produce of it. All this happened within less than eighteen months !

MARTHA BLEWITT.

At Birdbroke was buried, in May, 1681, Martha Blewitt, who was the wife of nine husbands successively. The text for her funeral sermon was—" Last of all, the woman died also." The ninth survived her.

MRS. VAN BUCHELL.

In 1775 died the wife of that eccentric empiric, Dr. Martin Van Buchell, and the singular mode

employed for the preservation of her body merits notice. On her death taking place, he applied to Dr. Hunter to exert his skill in preventing, if possible, the changes of form usual after the cessation of life. Accordingly, the doctor, assisted by Mr. Cruikshank, injected the blood-vessels with a coloured fluid, so that the minute red vessels of the cheeks and lips were filled, and exhibited their native hue ; and the body, in general, having all the cavities filled with antiseptic substances, remained perfectly free from corruption, or any unpleasant smell, as if it was merely in a state of sleep. But to resemble the appearance of life, glass eyes were also inserted. The corpse was then deposited in a bed of thin paste or plaster of Paris, in a box of sufficient dimensions, which subsequently crystallized, and produced a pleasing effect. A curtain covered the glass lid of the box, which could be withdrawn at pleasure, and which box being kept in the common parlour, Mr. Van Buchell had the satisfaction of preserving his wife for many years, frequently displaying the beautiful corpse to his friends and visitors. A second marriage, some years afterwards, having occasioned family differences, it was found expedient to remove the preserved body.

MRS. DAY.

Mrs. Day, relict of Mr. Day, author of "Sandford and Merton," it is said, after her husband's death, never saw the light of the sun. She confined herself to her bed all day, with the curtains drawn so close that no light could be admitted ; and rose at night, wandering alone in her garden, amid the gloom that was congenial to her sorrows.

P. D. VALLE.

Pietro della Valle, an enterprising Italian traveller, who lived in the seventeenth century, and wrote an interesting account of many regions of the East, rarely visited by Europeans, married, when in Assyria, a beautiful girl, of Christian parentage, and a native of Mesopotamia. Though very young and delicate, the fair Giserida accompanied the wandering Italian wherever he went, and was with him even in battle, when he fought as an officer of the Persian King. A premature death separated her from the husband of her choice, as he was preparing to carry her to India—her body he *did* carry : he had it secured in a coffin, and placed on board of ship, in the cabin where he slept. For four years it was the inseparable companion of his long and perilous journeys, by sea and by land ; and at the end of that period, he deposited it, with great pomp, in the tomb of his noble ancestors at Rome, pronouncing himself a funeral oration of considerable beauty, which contained an account of her extraordinary life.

THE END.

I N D E X.

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
A.		Burney, Dr.	167
Abercorn, lord	226	Burns, Mrs.	22
Abernethy, J., Esq.	26	C.	
Abrantes, duchess of	16	Carne, J., Esq.	159
Addison, Mr.	2	Caron, J. and M.	67
Albert, Jean of	108	Carpentier, M.	40
Alexander III., king	128	Carrick, countess of	126
Algerines, the	193	Catherine II., empress	11
American, an	17	Cecil, Mr.	55
Ancients, the	33	Cesar	33
Annandale, lord of	126	Chalmers, Sir G.	35
Alphonso	113	Charlemagne	23
Ammon	69	Charles I., king	34
Anthony	227	Charlotte, queen	89
Arabs, the	212	Clarendon, lady	34
Atkinson, Frances	181	Clarke, Dr.	217
Augustus	33	Cleopatra	229
Austin, Joseph	164	Clergyman, a	168
B.		Clovis, king	39
Baldini	4	Cobbett, Mr.	8
Baldwin, Mr.	230	Colin, Dinah	182
Bandon	30	Columbus	136
Barnave, M.	116	Compton, lady	69
Bastile, hero of the	22	Conyngham, marquis of	231
Bavaria, duke of	69	Conrad III., emperor	69
Beaumont	176	Cooper, Mr. A.	232
Beggar, a	45	Cordey, Charlotte	14
Bellay, bishop	190	Couple, a blind	40
Bellitz, Louise	16	—— a Canadian	237
Bernard, Mrs. C.	148	—— a Dutch	75
Blewitt, Martha	242	—— a Glasgow	238
Bluster, Mr.	157	—— a jocose	10
Bothwell, earl of	183	—— an American	61, 81
Boy, a French	169	—— a negro	234
Boyce, Mr.	170	—— a new-married	93
Bracciano, duke de	121	—— an unhappy	238
Brace, Julia	124	—— a Prussian	49
Bretschneider	6	—— a Swedish	100, 241
Brett, colonel	29	—— a wise	59
Bright, Dr.	122	Cowper, W., Esq.	60
Brigstock, Dr.	85	Craasbeck, Mr.	86
Browne, Mr.	218	Crawford, W.	233
Bruce, Mr. M.	64	Croker, Mr. E.	75
—— Robert	126	Cruikshank, Mr.	243
Buchell, Mrs. V.	242	Cumberland, countess of	240
Burd, dean	40	Curran, Mr.	170

INDEX.

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
D.		Gay, Mr.	
D——, countess of	124	Gellius, A.	170
Dale, Dr.	72	Gentleman, a	19
Daughter, a devoted	130	—— a married	77
—— a Persian	122	—— an Irish	35
Davis, Miss	77	George I., king	13
Day, Mrs.	243	—— III., king	107
Dazelaer, M.	79	Girl, an Irish	19
Douce, Mr.	177, 179	—— a Scotch	16
Douglas, Mr.	88	Godin, Madame	93
Downshire, marquis	40	Goldsmith, Dr.	234
Drake, Sir B.	223	Goodchild, Mr. and Mrs.	74
Drogheda, lady	31	Gowrie, hon. Miss	31
Drunkard, a	60	Grammont, duke de	28, 109
Dutoit, Madame	62	Granville, Dr.	53, 215
E.		Greentree, Isaac	230
Eberle, J.	61	Griffin, Mr. and Mrs.	236
Egirvard	23	Grindall, Anthony	179
Eire, Richard	75	Grotius	78
Eleanor, queen	58	Gurnall, Rev. W.	15
Elgin, earl	126, 203	H.	
Elizabeth, queen	72, 116, 176	Hamilton, lady	118
Elliott, Mr.	186	—— Miss	194
Emperor, an Indian	111	Harriot, Mr.	146
Eretius	130	Harvest, Mr.	234
Erskine, hon. Mrs.	76	Hastings, Warren	46
Eurydice	207	Hayto, George	182
Exeter, marquis of	55	Heiress, an	82
F.		Henry, Dr.	224
Families, singular	106	—— II., king	190
Family, a Persian	164	—— VIII., king	34, 158
—— a Tyrian	159	Herbert, the lords	225
Fanshawe, lady	92	Hewitt, Sir W.	29
Farquhar, Sir W.	32	Hide, Mrs.	47
Ferdinand III., king	58	Hodgson, Zechariah	86
Fitzwilliam, earl	158	Hoffman, Rev. Mr.	140
Fletcher	176	Hoggins, Mrs.	56
France, queen of	34	Holman, Mr.	234
Franklin, Dr.	3, 137	Hulton, Mr.	194
Frederick the Great	128	Hunsdon, earl	225
Frederick William III., emperor	141	Hunter, Dr.	243
Frenchman, a	167	Husband, a fearful	65
—— a young	14, 116	—— a tyrannical	81
Fuller, Messrs.	231	Hutchinson, captain	64
—— T.	58	Hutton, W., Esq.	137
G.		Hyde, Mr.	34
G——, J., Esq.	230	I.	
—— Mr.	144	Icelanders, the	163
Garrick, D., Esq.	140	Indian, an	171
		Irishman, an	35, 113

INDEX.

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
J.		Monk, an Egyptian . . .	69
Jackett, Mr.	231	Montgomery, Mr. . . .	46
Jagua	192	Moor, a young	133
James I., king . . . 34, 47,	226	More, Hannah	194
Jervas	144	Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. .	138
John, king	224	Morton, earl of	224
Johnson, Dr.	15	Mother, an American .	115
Juan, Don	112	M'Quillan, R.	225
Julius III., pope	121	Munchausen, author of	
		Baron	24
K.		N.	
Kaimes, lord	1, 126	Nicholson, Miss	44
Kelso, Miss.	129	Nithsdale, countess . .	61
Klaproth, Mr.	194	Nobleman, an English .	116
L.		———— an Italian . .	156
Lacedemonians, the . . .	190	———— a young . . . 13,	124
Lady, a London	82	Normans, the	224
———— a Scotch	229	Norton, Mr. and Mrs. .	138
———— a young	18, 19	Noyes, Miss	26
Lambertini, pope	121	O.	
Lancashire, a man in . .	27	Officer, an Irish	72
Laurence, Richard	148	Ogilvie, lord	80
Lavalette, M.	61	———— Mr.	119
Lawyer, a	11	Oldbuck, Jonathan . . .	189
Lichtenau, countess . . .	140	O'Neil, Mr.	129
Loo-nan-kin	132	Osborne, Edward	29
Lovers, African	19		
Louis	107	P.	
———— XII., king	34	Pair, a depressed	66
———— XVI., king	115	———— a taciturn	91
Lycurgus	33	Pearson, Isaac	181
Lyons, a father at	110	Peasant, a Dutch	168
Lysons, Mr.	67	Pembroke, earl of	142
M.		———— countess of	240
M——, Miss	19	Pennant, Mr. . . . 180, 184,	210
Marat	14	Persian, a	11
Marchena, Juan P.	136	Phocion, wife of	85
Marlborough, duke of . .	57	Physician, a	115
Massena	16	Pike, General	90
Master, an English	146	Pitt, hon. W.	10, 32
Maximilian	113	Pomeranian, a young . .	128
Maximus V.	130	Portali, M.	97
Meir, Rabbi	65	Porter, Mrs.	15
Menage	167	Postlethwayte, Mr. . . .	13
Mental, M.	174	Preacher, a	135
Merchant, a	36	Price, lady	68
Mesins, Quintin	7	Pryse, Sir J.	241
Meynel, lady	137	Prussia, king of	49
Milton, John	77	———— Frederick of . . .	96
Miravin, M. de	48	Purchase, Mr.	218
Moffat, Dr.	178		

INDEX.

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
R.		Stew, Rev. W.	75
Racine	109	Stickney, Mrs.	105
Rayburn	12	Strongbow, Mr.	111
Rhodians, the	191	Suffolk, duke of	34
Richer, M.	173	Swift, dean	45, 152, 162
Riddell, major	43		
Rivers, countess	29	T.	
Robespierre	123	Temple, Sir W.	18
Roger, Mr.	225	Tennent, Rev. W.	7
Rome, brothers in	118	Terence	146
Roquette, M.	62	Thatcher, John	97
Rugg, Mrs.	68	Thorne, Miss	52
RuJean, Dr.	18	Tytler, Mr. P. F.	127
Russell, lord	98		
Rutonsky, count	5	V.	
		Valle, P. de	244
S.		Vere, Sir H.	137
S——, Mr. and Mrs.	50	Vojrod, Janca	192
Sadi	57		
Sandy, Miss	138	W.	
Saunders, Robert	179	Wales, a woman in	242
Savoyard, a	5	Ward, Mr.	101
Scholar, a poor	160	Webster, Dr.	102, 195
Scott, Sir W.	40, 183	——— Mr.	153
Senataire, M.	173	Wife, a Jewish	65
Senzano	25	——— a Scottish	101
Servant, a farmer's	226	Wilson, Sir R.	64
——— a female	153	Wives, the German	69
——— an Irish	155	Wolsey, cardinal	158
Servants, ancient	150	Woman, a Brazilian	229
——— two Chinese	149	Wood, Sandy	35
Seymour, Edward	76	Wraxall, the historian	118
Shaftesbury, lord	100	Wycherley	31
Shelly, Rev. Mr.	58		
Sheridan, Dr.	45	Y.	
Simonides	2	Young, Dr.	3
Soldier, a Scottish	139	Youths, two Chinese	131
Somerset, duke of	76		
Southey, Dr.	229	Z.	
Spain, king of	28	Zeno	139
Stackpoole, Mr.	237		
Sterne	140		

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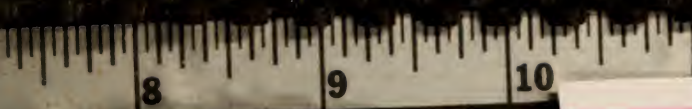
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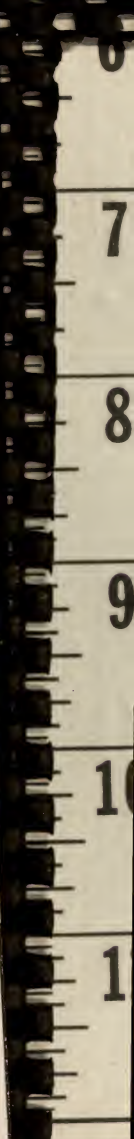
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